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## THE TIMES Tomorrow

**Free market TV**  
How opening up the airwaves could bring more sex and violence

**The work place**  
Eight pages of general appointments

**Giant-killers**  
The man behind non-league Ayrincham's FA Cup success

## Portfolio

Six readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Times Portfolio competition prize: Mr C Nobel of Southall, West Midlands; Mr Kenneth Beard of Malvern Link, Worce; Mrs B Mave of Epsom, Surrey; Mrs J Wismer of Bath, Mr R Festival of Old Kettering, Northants and Mr John Brown of Bilton, Warwickshire each receive £333. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, information service, back page.

## UDR base attacked by mortars

Several people were hurt in a mortar attack on an Ulster Defence Regiment base at Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, four explosions were heard. Two schools were evacuated just as evening classes were due to start.

## Boost for UK ties with Russia

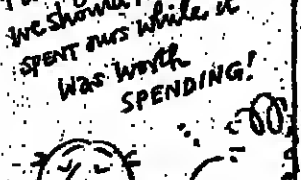
Anglo-Soviet relations, damaged by last year's tit-for-tat expulsions, have taken an upward turn after the visit to London by a Kremlin deputy foreign minister.

## Governor's call

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, called for an international body to harmonise rules on the regulation of securities markets.

## Teachers' talks

Talks between some teachers' unions and their local authority employers were adjourned until Friday at Aca's, the government co-ordination service, to study positions set out by both sides.



## Birth centre

The Princess of Wales visited St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to open a research centre that has raised the hopes of hundreds of women who have suffered repeated miscarriages.

## Greek charge

Greece accused the US deputy Secretary of State, Mr John Whithead, of lying after conflicting statements about Colonel Gaddafi's terror links.

## Danish veto

Denmark's MPs voted to block EEC reforms agreed at last month's Luxembourg summit.

## Bruno threat

Anti-apartheid organizations are campaigning to prevent Frank Bruno, Britain's heavy-weight hope, meeting George Coetzee, of South Africa, at Wembley in March.

## FOCUS

About 20 million Britons are affected by rheumatic complaints now being studied by top scientists. A Special Report marks the 50th anniversary of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

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# Murdoch print unions may strike after ballot

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

Print union leaders last night gave warning of industrial action "before the end of the week" unless News International reopened talks covering its new high-technology plant at Wapping.

The warning came after the two main unions, Sogat 82 and the National Graphical Association, announced a 5-1 majority in favour of industrial action in a ballot of its 5,500 members at the company's four Fleet Street newspapers.

Sogat 82 members voted in favour by 3,534 to 752, an unexpectedly high majority of 82 per cent. The NGA's vote in support of industrial action was 843 to 117 - a majority of 87.8 per cent.

Miss Brenda Dean, the general secretary of Sogat 82, said after the results were announced in the union's central London branch offices near Kings Cross: "We will be seeking a meeting with the company to give them a last opportunity to resolve this issue through negotiations."

But said that if a settlement could not be found "then I believe we will see industrial action before the end of this week."

The company said last night there could be no further negotiations over the east London plant. They added that they were prepared to talk about existing titles at Grays Inn Road (The Times, The Sunday Times) and Bouverie Street (The Sun, News of the World). They would be seeking similar conditions for those plants at Tower Hamlets.

The company's proposals for a legally binding no-strike agreement at the Wapping plant in Tower Hamlets have been rejected by the print unions, which last weekend put forward an alternative seven-point plan aimed at minimizing disruption and increasing productivity for implementation at the new site.

Tony Dubbins, NGA said at a news conference called to announce the ballot result that both unions "sincerely hoped" that as a result of the vote Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, "will now put into practice what he continually tells trade unionists through the editorial columns of his newspaper. That is, take notice of his employees, our members, and be prepared to

## Britannia stands by as fighting goes on

From Richard Dowden, Djibouti

Although fighting in Aden was preventing further evacuation of British expatriates, the Royal Yacht Britannia continued to stand by ready to take off more people when her boats can reach the shore safely.

Rear-Admiral John Garner said yesterday that 15 Britons had been taken off and a further 600 people were awaiting evacuation but there shooting was still continuing in Aden.

In a ship-to-shore radio interview the admiral said that he had been in frequent radio contact with the Soviet Embassy in Aden and there were 250 people sheltering there. They were thought to be short of food and water and were under sniper fire.

According to sources, it was still unclear who was in control in Aden. There was no water or electricity in the town and there were bodies and burnt-out vehicles in the streets.

## Vicar wins earthly fight over high-tech sermons

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Even as he delivered his computer-processed, word-processed sermon, the Rev Ivo Morshead found the taxman was mightily displeased, ruling that he should render unto Mr Lawson that which belonged to Mr Lawson. In particular, the taxman decreed, Mr Morshead should not be allowed to offset his personal home computer as a legitimate business expense.

The "avarice of the Inland Revenue did not stop there on the frontiers of high-tech Evangelicalism. They cast their eyes on his vesture, and decreed also that his cloak was an item for which no exemption could be granted.

But had they known more about the vicar of St Andrew's Church, Whitchurch, Tavistock, Devon, they might have settled for Christian charity and allowed his claim. For Mr Morshead, aged 59, is no ordinary parson. Before he was called to Holy Orders, he was the financial controller for IBM in the United Kingdom.



Miss Brenda Dean of Sogat 82 after the vote for industrial action by her union and the NGA was announced last night. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## Havoc in Beirut as car bomb kills 27

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

A car loaded with 1,200lb of explosives, petrol and oxygen tanks exploded yesterday in a busy commercial street in the Christian sector of Beirut, killing 27 people and wounding more than 100.

No group claimed responsibility, police said they had no clues. But the Mercedes car blew up 30 yards from an office of President Gemayel's Phalange party office in a seven-story building in the Fur el-Shubbak district. Though the office lost its windows, the real havoc was in the crowded street below.

The explosion ripped facades and hurled vehicles in three directions in huge fireballs. Motorists died inside their burning cars. Pedestrians were cut down by shrapnel or shards of glass falling from building up to 400 yards away. Five apartment buildings were severely damaged.

Red Cross volunteers in blood-stained uniforms struggled for hours to rescue the wounded under a huge cloud of grey and black smoke. The smell of cordite filled the air as ambulances and fire engines sped to the scene.

## More union legislation in prospect

The prospect of a fourth round of trades union legislation was raised by the Prime Minister when she told the Commons that further steps could be taken to ensure union officials were accountable to their members (our Labour Correspondent writes).

Mrs Thatcher said that no decisions had been taken by the Government and before any proposals were finalized, Ministers would hold a consultation period. It is understood that a Green Paper is being planned for before Parliament's summer recess.

Officials in the Department of Employment are working on a series of proposals

## Peres seeking British aid on Middle East

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Amid some of the tightest security seen at Heathrow airport, Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, arrived in London last night at the start of an official visit.

Over the next three days he will be discussing with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and other British leaders way of reviving the stalled Middle East peace process.

Although the Israelis remain mysterious about what they regard as a pro-Arab bias in British policy, they nevertheless recognize that Britain still enjoys considerable influence in some Arab capitals, particularly with King Hussein of Jordan.

The King left London only hours before Mr Peres arrived. He had been here on an extended private visit during which he had held talks with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary as well as with Mr Richard Murphy, the Reagan Administration's Middle East expert.

Mr Peres will be interested to learn from his British hosts where King Hussein stands on the crucial question of direct talks with Israel and what if anything, the British can do to nudge him in that direction.

Details of Mr Peres's visit, the first by an Israeli Prime Minister since Mr Menachem Begin in 1977, are being kept under wraps for security reasons.

## Sterling slides amid oil fears

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound fell sharply yesterday, for the second successive day. Sterling's fall, which was particularly sharp against the mark, came amid continued uncertainties over oil prices and action by the Bank of England to stop base rates rising.

However, the Treasury and Bank of England firmly rejected market talk of an abandonment of the firm exchange rate policy, as part of a desire to keep base rates down at all costs.

Officials believe that the pound's latest fall is entirely due to oil, and that, as far as this is temporary, base rates should not be automatically raised.

But the Treasury made it clear that the pound would not be allowed to fall to levels which jeopardize the Chancellor's target for inflation to less than 4 per cent this year.

This was backed up by the Prime Minister in the Commons. Mrs Thatcher said that the Government's top priority remained the defeat of inflation.

The pound fell more than three pence in a record low of 163.4661 against the dollar. This is below the DM3.50 level which the Confederation of British Industry regards as appropriate in terms of relative competitiveness.

The sterling index fell 0.7 to 76.2. In the first two days of this week the pound has fallen by 1.7 points, or 2.2 per cent. Against the dollar, the pound dipped to \$1.4075 before closing 38 pence down at \$1.412. Later in New York, it was steady at \$1.41.

Oil prices were the main focus for the markets. North Sea Brent crude oil for delivery in March rose to \$20.89 a barrel yesterday morning but later slipped back to \$19.60. In New York, Brent crude for delivery in April fell to a seven-year low of \$19 a barrel.

The Bank of England, by leaving its dealing rates unchanged, headed off a base rate rise again yesterday, after money market interest rates had raced up to level consistent with at least a point on bank base rates, now 12.5 per cent.

The Prime Minister, pressed by Conservative as well as Labour MPs yesterday to prevent a further rise in interest rates, gave no indication of any intention of heading pleas for a change of policy.

She told the Conservative backbencher, Sir Peter Tapsell, who had urged her to resist the clamour for even higher interest rates, that the rates were to a considerable extent the commercial judgement of the banks in the City. "And he knows we cannot disregard this".

Parliament, page 4  
Details, page 19  
Kenneth Fleet, page 19

## MPs press for end to hospitals' Crown immunity

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Timmins

The Government was coming under strong all-party pressure last night to abolish Crown immunity in prosecution for people working in hospital kitchens and the authorities blaming them, after the outbreak of the Stanley Royd hospital inquiry.

At the same time Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced a high-powered inquiry into the future of the public health system, including the control of infectious and communicable diseases, as the inquiry warned that expertise in this area is in danger of being lost.

The move came as the report into the outbreak of food poisoning at the Stanley Royd psychiatric hospital in Wakefield in 1984, in which 19 patients died and more than 460 patients and staff were taken ill, was highly critical of senior managers, including doctors and nurses.

The hospital failed to seek outside help, rejected it when it was offered, and failed to notify the relevant authorities properly about the outbreak.

Catering staff and supervisors "ignored" well-known basic rules and principles of food hygiene, the inquiry found.

Contraventionally, however, the inquiry does not recommend an end to hospitals' Crown immunity to prosecution, recommending instead steps to ensure that warnings about dirty and inadequate kitchens are acted on effectively.

Conservative and Labour MPs reacted with concern and anger at the findings, and there were indications that the report has nevertheless given an important boost to demands for the abolition of Crown immunity for people working in government buildings such as prisons and hospitals.

Mr Fowler encountered loud Labour protests when he restated the report's finding that Farley Heath Products, the baby food manufacturer famous for its rusks, Farex and Ostermilk, has been put into voluntary liquidation by its parent company, Glaxo, because of the financial damage done to the company by a salmonella outbreak that was traced to Farley's factory in Kendal, Cumbria.

The factory, which makes Ostermilk and the diet supplement Complan, closed on December 20. There is no immediate prospect of its reopening.

## Key Westland memo battle for Thatcher

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Prime Minister and Commons defence select committee were embroiled in a constitutional battle last night over the release of key Government papers at the heart of the Westland controversy.

In a blunt statement, Sir Humphrey Atkins, Conservative chairman of the committee which is carrying out an inquiry into Westland, said: "We will expect to be provided with any information, including internal Government papers, that we consider necessary."

In particular, the 11-man committee is expected to demand to see a Cabinet memorandum written on October 4 by Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, has claimed the memo shows Mr Brittan stressing the need to explore urgently a European option for rescuing Westland.

Sir Humphrey's colleagues are also likely to request a copy of the minute of a meeting between Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, and Mr Brittan on October 17.

Mr Heseltine has insisted both documents vindicate his position in the Westland saga. But last night Downing Street sources insisted the Government was not prepared to break with established practice and release such documents.

If Mrs Thatcher rejects the defence committee's demands, it will have to consider taking the matter to the floor of the House.

Sir Humphrey and his colleagues would have to prepare a special report and seek the support of the Commons in making the Government hand over the papers. Such a move would be unprecedented in recent parliamentary history.

Sir Humphrey, who made his statement last night as his statement last night as his

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# Pregnancy research gives hope to victims of repeated miscarriages

By Patricia Clough

Thousands of women whose efforts to have children end in repeated miscarriages could find help at a research centre that was officially opened by the Princess of Wales yesterday.

The Harris Birthright Centre for research into Early Pregnancy at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, is already claiming an 80 per cent success rate for a new technique to prevent the mother's system rejecting the baby as a "foreign body" and an immunological reaction is that believed to affect three quarters of the women who have recurrent miscarriages.

When the mother is injected with a vaccine made from her husband's blood she creates the necessary antibodies to protect her against the "foreign" being. The technique has even worked with women who have had 14 or 15 miscarriages, although according to staff at the centre.

Between 40 and 60 per cent of all pregnancies are believed to end in miscarriage.

Research into maternal an-

xiety, believed to be another principal cause of miscarriages, has also yielded interesting results.

Anxiety affects the blood flow that gives the baby oxygen and nourishment in the womb, and graphs at the centre show the flow can change dramatically as a mother talks about her unhappy childhood or reads an exciting book.

Dr Ian Sutherland, a co-director of the centre and a medical engineer, is developing a tiny probe which can relay the level of the mother's blood flow to a monitoring and recording device so small she can keep it in her hand bag.

Mark Kemp, aged 10 weeks, who was sleeping soundly as the Princess of Wales came by, was a living example of the success of the centre. His mother, Mrs Barbara Kemp, had three miscarriages in two and a half years "and basically we had given up", her husband, Les, said.

Mrs Kemp had asked the centre for help after reading about it.

"Then they took gallons of

my blood and made a vaccine from it", Mrs Kemp said. She had to travel to London from their home in Stroud, Gloucestershire, frequently for injections and a three-week stay at St Mary's during the critical third month.

"When I held him in my arms I couldn't believe it", said Mr Kemp. "Until he was actually born and we had counted his fingers and toes we were both quite worried".

The antibody technique was developed by Professor James Mowbray, Professor of Immunology at St Mary's, who had pioneered work on kidney transplants.

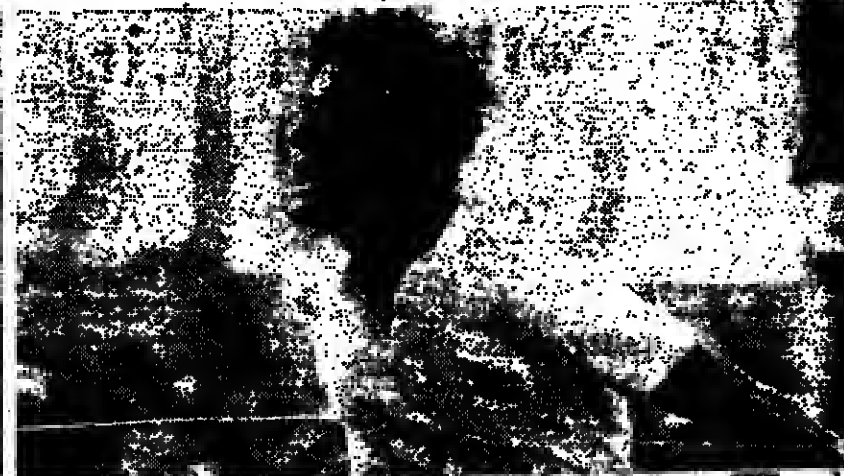
Professor Mowbray hopes to make his system cheaper and simpler so that it can be used in many more hospitals. At present the treatment alone without the tests and interviews costs about £300-£400 per patient.

He adds: "About 15,000 couples have this problem in Britain: we have seen 650 and treated 350. It is a drop in the ocean. It needs to be available in a lot of other places."

# Financial crisis puts Goldcrest's future in balance



Dr Haing Ngor, who plays the role of Fran in *The Killing Fields*, of 1984.



Ben Cross in *Chariots of Fire*, produced by David Puttnam, 1981, and directed by Hugh Hudson from Colin Welland's screenplay.



Fulton Mackay as Ben in *Local Hero*, 1983.



Ben Kingsley in *Gandhi*.



Dexter Fletcher (left) and Al Pacino in *Revolution* the £20 million epic about the American war of independence, which was a box office flop.

# Better success hope for test tube babies

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Many more infertile women will be able to give birth to "test-tube" babies in the next few years if an important new research programme is successful.

The research is also likely to lead to a reduction in the high incidence of twins, triplets and quadruplets born as a result of in-vitro fertilization, and to fewer congenital or hereditary abnormalities among IVF babies.

Although about 2,000 babies have been born worldwide through IVF in the past seven years, the success rate is only 15 per cent to 20 per cent. One of the main reasons is that specialists have been unable to identify which fertilized eggs are most likely to develop through pregnancy into healthy infants.

This inability has meant that three or more such "pre-embryos" are replaced in the mother's womb to improve the odds of a single pregnancy. In most cases, the treatment fails but in many others, the result is the birth of twins, triplets or even quadruplets.

Researchers at Edinburgh University have received a £400,000 grant from the Medical Research Council and will concentrate on finding a test to identify accurately the healthiest pre-embryos.

"Within five years we hope to be able to identify in the laboratory the embryos which are grossly abnormal and avoid replacing them in the mother," Professor David Baird, who is

leading the project, said yesterday.

This should lead to a better chance of live births from the embryos we do replace. It should also mean fewer cases of multiple births and to a reduction in the risks of genetic disease."

Professor Baird, who is the MRC's clinical research professor of reproductive endocrinology at Edinburgh, said that if sufficiently accurate tests are developed the fertilized eggs of couples known to carry a high risk of genetic disorder could be screened to exclude those capable of reproducing the condition.

"The technology to develop such tests already exists," he said. "It is really now a question of developing good enough probes to identify the genetic material, and then making sure that they work."

Professor Baird said he and colleagues had considered the ethical issues by their research.

"We recognize that we have an obligation to think very carefully about planned experiments and our motives."

"There are great potential benefits from our new work. Even in the best IVF centres in the world, the success of the treatment in relation to the troubles and heartaches the patients suffer is really quite small."

"Scientists in this field have the potential to increase substantially the prospects for such patients."

# Warning on infertility risks in jobs

Men and women in many occupations risk infertility and other reproductive problems because of their jobs and working conditions, according to a report published yesterday (Our Science Correspondent writes).

Still births, miscarriages, congenital handicaps and childhood cancers are potential dangers resulting from most modern workplaces, according to research sponsored by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Women unknowingly face fertility hazards in the textile industry, and both men and women are at risk if their work exposes them to dyes, solvents or weedkillers, the report said.

Nurses handling certain anti-cancer drugs run an increased risk of bearing malformed children, and men in farming can become impotent through exposure to chemicals.

Four out of five farmworkers on one Derbyshire farm independently approached doctors about their impotence, according to the research. They were cured after hormone treatment.

The union and the commission said they hoped the report, *Reproductive Hazards of Work*, would motivate the Government to take action.

The ASTMS was "increasingly concerned about the occupational hazards to reproduction."

# BBC to set up inquiry on television violence

The BBC is to commission an independent review of the level of violence on television, but the corporation denied yesterday that the exercise was a response to recent government criticism of television standards.

Mr Will Wyatt, chairman of a BBC committee which is examining the portrayal of violence on television, said there was evidence that suggested a link between broadcast violence and street violence, but there was no causal relationship proved between the two.

Mr Wyatt's committee, which is composed of a number of senior BBC executives, will ask an outside academic to provide a detailed analysis.

"We want violent incidents to be noted and categorized to give a firm and objective basis for measuring whether or not, and in what ways, there is any change over a period of time."

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The future of Goldcrest, the independent British film company responsible for such productions as *Chariots of Fire* and *Gandhi*, hangs in the balance.

A crisis board meeting has been called for tomorrow against a background of seemingly intractable financial difficulties which threaten the company with closure.

A crucial meeting of shareholders which include the Pearson publishing group, the National Coal Board Pension Fund and Electra Investment

Trust, has been called for Wednesday next week.

Goldcrest's financial difficulties have dismayed the British film industry, because the company was synonymous until last summer with the British film revival.

The new crisis has been caused largely by the box office flop in *America of Revolution*, Hugh Hudson's £20 million epic about the American war of independence. Goldcrest has decided to write off £10 million against the film which ran far over budget and has found disfavour with the American

critics.

*Revolution's* disastrous performance is understood to have put an end to plans by Mr Jake Eberts, Goldcrest's chief executive, to raise fresh equity finance of up to £25 million for future productions.

Goldcrest, set up nine years ago by Mr Eberts, who is Canadian-born, has progressed from one financial crisis to another since moving into offices in Wardour Street, Soho, London, last May.

Goldcrest's present shareholders put up £7.5 million of rescue finance last autumn, but that did no more than solve the immediate problem.

# MPs want gas monopoly curbs

By Stephen Goodwin

Tougher controls aimed at preventing a privatized British Gas Corporation from abusing the natural monopoly it will enjoy were demanded by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday.

In a 250-page report, the Conservative-dominated select committee on energy severely criticizes the over-optimistic notions it believes lie behind the Government proposals for the gas industry.

The sale of British Gas could net the Government about £8 billion. The Gas Bill, which paves the way for privatization, is before a Commons standing committee and should become law by the summer. But the MPs are not satisfied with safeguards for consumers.

They are particularly critical of the proposed regulatory framework. They say it is insufficient "to ensure that the gas industry does not fall prey to the temptation to abuse its

great powers to the disadvantage of its customers and the country."

The Committee want the head of the proposed watchdog, the Director General of the Office of Gas Supply (Ogas) to have the power and freedom to promote competition in the gas market. But as a check on domestic prices it recommends that the director certify that profits in the domestic sector are a fair reflection of revenue and costs.

# Youth guilty of murdering woman on train

Jack Roy, aged 16, of Shorebridge Street, Glasgow, was yesterday sentenced to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure after being found guilty of murdering Janet Maddocks, a Birmingham social worker, by stabbing her on board a late-night train last March.

At Birmingham Crown Court Mr Justice Otton described his crime as "evil and callous."

Roy stabbed the woman, who was aged 35, so severely in the neck that her spinal cord and jugular vein were severed.

At one stage Roy admitted to police he had killed her in a handbag snatch that went wrong, but in the witness box said he could remember nothing about the journey from Milton Keynes to his home in Glasgow because he was "high" and hallucinating on the drug, LSD.

# Typist says she will marry man in sex case

A government typist, Miss Mary Harvey, at the centre of the Civil Servant sex trap case, still plans to marry her accused boyfriend.

She told the Central Crown Court of her intention to marry Leonard Denham, aged 55, as she gave evidence in his defence yesterday.

Denham of Balham, South London, was accused of torturing and blackmailing a senior Civil Servant when he learned that the man had allegedly tried to have oral sex with Miss Harvey at a Christmas party.

Denham was convicted of blackmail but cleared of wounding the man with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Miss Harvey, aged 37, who is disabled, is alleged to have loved the Civil Servant, referred to as Mr X to her flat.

# Nun helps police in chase after suspect

Police in Bristol were yesterday seeking a nun who helped catch a fleeing suspect and later gave first aid to the policeman who had been chasing him.

The nun saw two men pursued by Police Constable Alan George in the Clifton area of the city on Monday night and promptly tripped one of them, enabling PC George to grapple with him.

PC George was knocked unconscious in the struggle, but the man was arrested near the scene as other police arrived.

The nun gave first aid to PC George as he lay on the pavement. He was treated in hospital for cuts and bruises.

"The nun disappeared and we would like to trace her to thank her," the police said yesterday. She might also be needed as a witness, they added.

# Puzzle of meningitis outbreak

Medical authorities are baffled by a new outbreak of bacterial meningitis, which has killed two children and seriously affected more than 50 other people in south Gloucestershire since 1981. The incidence of the disease is up to five times the national figure, and attempts to establish a common link between its victims have failed.

Six new cases have been reported since December, after a lull of five months, and one of them, a boy aged 15, died in hospital.

The disease has occurred persistently in the Stroud district, where there have been 40 cases since 1981 and the Gloucester area, where there

have been 15 cases. Young people are considered most at risk, and two children have been left profoundly deaf.

Health authorities are now widening their search for common factors that could explain its reappearance.

Victims of the disease are to be questioned about their personal and social lives and the stages connected with a control group. The Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, at Collingdale, north London is gathering information about the outbreak, and the public health laboratory in Metchley is attempting to discover if the particular organism, identified as Meningococcal, Group B, type 15, has

any unusual characteristics.

Dr Michael Mayer-Jones, community physician for the Gloucester health district, said yesterday: "I am not denying there is a problem, but we have had an undue incidence rather than an epidemic."

At the funeral of the last victim, Charlie Smith, an orphan, who attended a special school in Stroud, the Rev John Cole said he had been struck down "by our local pestilence."

There have also been 27 cases of viral meningitis - considered to be less dangerous - in the Stroud area, and seven in the Gloucester area over five years. Again, the incidence was higher than nationally.

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35	2,921	2,586	2,480	8,018	2,921
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45	2,898	2,539	2,484	7,871	2,898
50	2,882	2,498	2,396	7,746	2,882
55	2,788	2,448	2,338	7,570	2,788
60	2,741	2,401	2,302	7,444	2,741
65	2,709	2,373	2,276	7,338	2,709
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30	7,624	6,420	6,420	20,788	7,624
35	7,614	6,470	6,396	20,680	7,614
40	7,531	6,397	6,326	20,454	7,531
45	7,436	6,373	6,305	20,286	7,436
50	7,385	6,469	6,283	20,057	7,385
55	7,213	6,319	6,059	19,581	6,977
60	7,105	6,222	5,987	19,282	6,638
65	7,029	6,157	5,904	19,090	6,132
70	7,029	6,157	5,904	19,090	6,132
75	7,029	6,157	5,904	19,090	6,132

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PARLIAMENT JANUARY 21 1986

Advice on hospital kitchens

Tightening hospital hygiene

Thatcher not drawn on spy report

MPs united in praise of South Yemen rescuers

ADEN RESCUE

MPs united in the Commons to pay tribute to the rescue mission carried out by the Royal Yacht Britannia and other naval vessels off the South Yemen coast.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, took the lead, as the names of Michael Forsyth (Sitting, C), during question time. I am sure (she said) the whole House would like to congratulate the officers and men of the Royal Yacht Britannia, and also those of HMS Jupiter, HMS Newcastle and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Brambleleaf, and the crisis unit at the Foreign Office which did such excellent work in identifying the people who needed to be taken off from Aden.

After questions Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, reported that so far no British subjects had been hurt. But he later said about 40 Britons probably remained in widely scattered communities in South Yemen and he was working with other governments to find the best way of evacuating them.

He praised the calmness and efficiency of Mr Arthur Marshall, the British Ambassador in Aden, his staff and their families. Mr Marshall accompanied the evacuation to Djibouti but then returned on Britannia to the area where he would remain with a member of his staff while the evacuation continued.

The success of the evacuation so far (he added) would not have been possible without the help given by a number of governments and, in particular, the governments of Djibouti, the USSR and France. This has been a remarkable demonstration of what can be achieved through close international cooperation and I take this opportunity to thank them warmly for their assistance.

The embassy staff's example was matched by the fortitude of the

PM points to better industrial figures

THE ECONOMY

The Government did not like interest rate increases, but it had to act to keep inflation down and that remained a top priority, Mrs Thatcher said during questions in the Commons.

Marking this work had been unscathed because of oil price movements, but the Bank of England had maintained its dealing rates.

She was replying to Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, who said the Government should do everything to prevent a rise in interest rates because of the additional burden that would be imposed on British industry.

He said Mrs Thatcher must be the only person left to believe inflation could be managed by domestically high interest and exchange rates. Mrs Thatcher said British industry had experienced an extremely good year. (Conservative cheers) There had been record profits for a long time, record investment and excellent exports.

Mr Kinnock said the Prime Minister kept making misleading claims. Investment in manufacturing was down 18 per cent lower than six years ago. In the last year, manufacturing exports had gone up over the six years by 13 per cent but manufacturing imports had also gone up by 45 per cent.

Mrs Thatcher said Mr Kinnock had run away from many industrial problems like restrictive practices. Figures published on Monday showed that in the third quarter of 1985 compared with the previous quarter, manufacturing output was 1 per cent up. Gross domestic product was at an all-time record.

Sir Peter Tapsell (Lindsay East, C): Is it right or sensible that men and women running small businesses in this country should have to pay about 16 per cent to borrow money when there are more than 3 million unemployed, and enormous unused resources?

Mrs Thatcher: Interest rates are, to a considerable extent, partly the commercial judgement of the banks. The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected a request by Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on treasury and economic affairs, for an urgent debate on the rising level of interest rates.

Tightening hospital hygiene

HEALTH

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced in a statement to the Commons that he was reviewing departmental guidance given to health authorities on steps to ensure proper food hygiene in hospitals.

He said that he would take into full account the recommendations for the arrangements for the control of infection and the handling of outbreaks put forward by the hospital infection working group. The group, established last summer, was being asked to give the highest priority to contingency plans for dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases that would ender that specialist help was brought in as soon as it was needed.

Mr Fowler added that he had decided to establish an inquiry into the future development of the public health function, including the control of communicable diseases, and the speciality of community medicine. The inquiry would be a broad and fundamental examination of the role of public health departments including how such a role could best be fulfilled.

The inquiry would be chaired by the Government's chief medical officer, Dr Donald Acheson, and be expected to receive its report by the end of the year. Details of membership would be finalised shortly. In the meantime, they would take every step possible to prevent a recurrence of these tragic events.

Mr Fowler said Stanley Royd is a large hospital in Wakefield for mentally ill and psychiatric patients. In a major outbreak of salmonella food poisoning which began on August 26 1984, 355 patients and 106 members of staff were affected. Food poisoning caused, or contributed to, the deaths of 19 patients. At the time of the outbreak, and subsequently, a number of allegations were made of errors in the control of infection, of poor standards of hygiene in the hospital kitchen and of other shortcomings.

The Government would continue the urgent review of Crown immunity for hospital kitchens including the suggestion that a

Minister points out that a job is a job

EMPLOYMENT

A job is a job, Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, replied when accused during Commons questions of failing to distinguish between full-time and part-time employment.

In June, 1979, there were 13,768,000 male employees in full-time jobs and 16,626,000 and 16,490,000 respectively.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North East, Lab) said the figures revealed the destruction of 2,500,000 full-time jobs since 1979 and 250,000 full-time jobs even in the past few years.

The only growth in recent times (he went on) has been in the secondary labour market of casual part-time labour, with no employment protection, low pay, no holiday pay, no sick pay and no pension rights, all accompanied by the continued relentless destruction of full-time jobs.

Mr Clark said it is exactly what these figures do not reveal. He has chosen to use the arcane definition of employees in employment. Had he chosen to use the employed labour force, the usual category by which wages are judged, he would have seen that the number of jobs has increased by 709,000 since 1983 and the total loss since 1979 has been just over a million.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C): There were 1,800,000 self-employed in 1979 and there are now 2,500,000. If each of these self-employed people creates a good business, they can employ more people. It is a major area of employment growth.

Mr Clark: He is right. Doubtless for that reason Mr Leighton selected that category which excludes self-employed from his total.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Cotswold, Lab): Would he stop the misleading practice in preparing these figures of treating men's part-time jobs as the full equivalent of men's full-time jobs? Is there any reason why the House should continue to be misled by this failure to distinguish?

Scottish move on traffickers

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, has ordered the preparation of legislation suitable for Scotland relating to the forfeiture of proceeds of drug trafficking.

Announcing this in a Commons written reply, he explained how distinctive features of the legal system meant it would not be possible to extend the Drug Trafficking Offences Bill to Scotland. However, he intended at the earliest opportunity to introduce equivalent legislation.

Meanwhile provision would be made in the Home Office Bill - before the Commons that day - to enable orders of the courts in England and Wales made under the Bill to be enforceable in Scotland through the Scottish courts.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): One of the reasons the increase was about 7.7 per cent is because the Government gave a green light to those at the top end of the salary scale some time last year when they awarded a 19 per cent increase to those top salaried people. As a result of that executives managed to roll in 17 per cent during 1985. The trouble is that those at the bottom end have been hammered by this Government.

Mr Clark: The top salaries review body is a completely independent body. He is somewhat confused in his arithmetic. The recipients of these awards were so few in number they could not possibly affect the statistical average of earnings.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C): There were 1,800,000 self-employed in 1979 and there are now 2,500,000. If each of these self-employed people creates a good business, they can employ more people. It is a major area of employment growth.

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Mr Clark: A job is a job. I am surprised to find Mr Wainwright, speaking as he does for the party he represents, adhering to that rigorous Saikhonov doctrine that male employees should be fully working the entire time.

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Thatcher not drawn on spy report

PM'S QUESTIONS

Mrs Thatcher would not be drawn at Commons questions into confirming or denying the report in James Deane's weekly that Soviet agents had been infiltrating the Greenham Common peace women.

Sir Peter Hain (Blackpool, South, C) asked the Prime Minister if she had any information to contradict the report which claimed the agents were trained to carry out acts of sabotage at times of tension or war.

Mrs Thatcher replied: We do not comment on specific reports. But we are very much aware of the danger that such reports in this country would present in crises or war time. That is why we have exercised Brave Defender in September to see how we should properly protect our sensitive installations.

Sir Anthony Grant (South West, Cambridge, C): It would be extraordinarily incompetent on the part of the Soviet Union if they did not seek to infiltrate Greenham Common. Could it be that the priority should be given to securing not only Greenham Common but also the Moleworth base in Cambridge?

Mrs Thatcher: Brave Defender was the first time we would comment on such reports. It could defend all important installations, including Moleworth.

Appeal over licensing laws. Once Sunday trading came into effect, the Prime Minister should show the same support for flexible licensing laws and thus bring into line with Scotland and the Palace of Westminster, Mr James Fox (Shipley, C) said.

Mrs Thatcher replied: If I wish, we will of course give consideration to flexible licensing hours in the country. I do not think one should do anything to restrict Sunday trading hours, as equal or in any way the same as those in the Palace of Westminster.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP): Does she intend to ignore the mass of correspondence she has received against the Sunday trading law, putting a three-line whip on a matter of conscience?

Mrs Thatcher: He comes from a part of the country where there is no limitation on Sunday trading and he wishes, nevertheless, to stop those south of the border from having the same village.

Ministers stay clear of pay bargaining

WAGE COSTS

It was not for the Government to intervene in the pay bargaining between employers and employees, Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said during question time to reply to Conservative MPs who complained that wage settlements were too high.

The underlying increase in average weekly earnings in the year to November 1985 was 7.5 per cent, he said. This should not be confused with the average increase of pay settlements which would be lower as the figure for earnings included overtime, bonuses and similar factors.

Mr John Maples (Lewisham West, C): In the present circumstances both of these figures are too high. It is vital that individual businesses do not give pay awards which increase real unit costs. We should take a lesson from the United States.

Mr Clark: I would not think it appropriate for a minister to say any wage increase is too high as an abstract concept. It is not for governments to intervene in the bargaining between employers and employees; nonetheless he is right to draw attention to the question of unit costs and productivity.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): One of the reasons the increase was about 7.7 per cent is because the Government gave a green light to those at the top end of the salary scale some time last year when they awarded a 19 per cent increase to those top salaried people. As a result of that executives managed to roll in 17 per cent during 1985. The trouble is that those at the bottom end have been hammered by this Government.

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Waite's role attacked as 'amateur'

Reminders on rates pledge

The role of Mr Terry Waite as special envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury was criticized in the House of Lords during question time when Lord Paget of Northampton (Lab) said such amateur efforts must be replaced by a team of specialists more difficult.

Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, replying to a question on the stance of the Government on terrorism, said: The handling of terrorist incidents will often involve a number of agencies, usually conducted by trained police officers, in order to bring the incident to a peaceful conclusion with minimum risk to any hostages and to arrest offenders.

The arrangements for handling such incidents are closely coordinated between police and government.

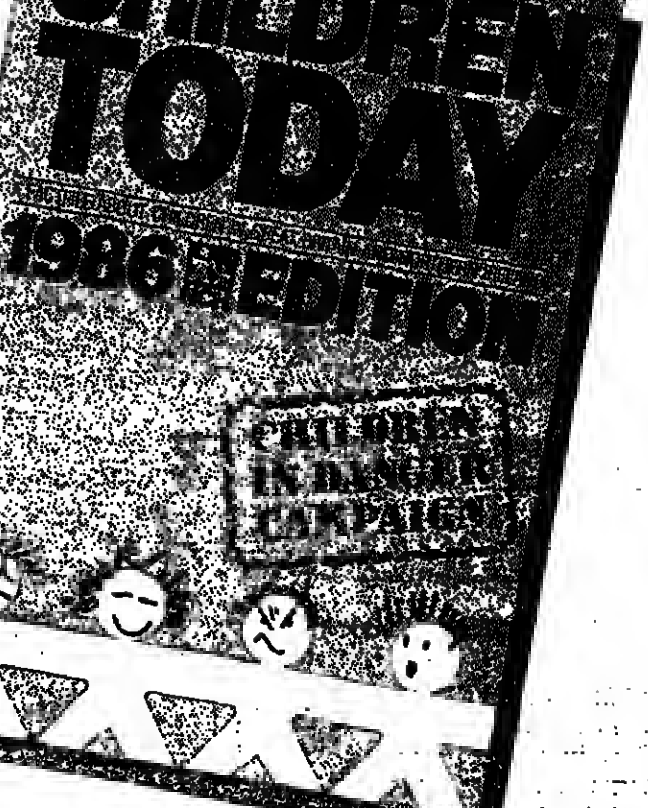
Lord Paget of Northampton: While congratulating the Government on their policy, particularly the handling of the recent case of the gentleman who escaped handcuffed to a bedstead, which seems to have been admirably handled, it is not made somewhat more difficult by amateur endeavours in particular when it comes with the alleged endorsement of the established church?

We learn that Mr Waite has been appointed to receive but he is suggesting without any authority that very weak Mr Waite tells us that Colonel Gaddafi is a deeply religious man, he is voted England's second most popular man.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, reminded the Prime Minister of her pledge to abolish the domestic rating system and her recognition of the fact that such a system was unacceptable.

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MP ejected after late night row

RATES

A ninety minute debate on Welsh rate support grants ended early today (Tuesday) in a 113 vote victory for the Government.

Mr Raymond Powell (Ogmore, Lab) said he wanted to be helpful. It was not the fault of the Chair, but the Secretary of State, who had taken 26 of the 90 minutes.

Mr Wigley said this was the second time such a thing had happened. Mr Armstrong warned that if Mr Wigley persisted he must face the consequences.

Mr Wigley: I am afraid I do persist because this is the second time it has happened. Mr Armstrong: I am sorry but I must name Mr Wigley.

Thames tunnel plea

MP's interest

The Prime Minister should give the same support for flexible licensing laws and thus bring into line with Scotland and the Palace of Westminster, Mr James Fox (Shipley, C) said.

Mrs Thatcher replied: If I wish, we will of course give consideration to flexible licensing hours in the country. I do not think one should do anything to restrict Sunday trading hours, as equal or in any way the same as those in the Palace of Westminster.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP): Does she intend to ignore the mass of correspondence she has received against the Sunday trading law, putting a three-line whip on a matter of conscience?

Mrs Thatcher: He comes from a part of the country where there is no limitation on Sunday trading and he wishes, nevertheless, to stop those south of the border from having the same village.

Compromise does not find favour

SHOPS BILL

A compromise amendment to the Shops Bill aimed at retaining the special character of Sunday by allowing unrestricted trading until 1 pm, but only the sale of essential goods and services for the rest of the day, was rejected in the House of Lords by 53 to 94 Government majority.

Lord Jacques (Lab) proposing the amendment during the resumed committee stage, said the decisions on what goods and services were essential would be one for the Secretary of State to decide and subject to affirmative resolution of both Houses.

The amendment, going from experience, would mean that small shops opening until lunchtime, because the large stores were interested only in the afternoon trade. That would mean the essential character of the day would largely be preserved.

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, said the proposal came nearest to a sensible compromise that could be achieved between the two camps on either side of the argument.



# Wakefield food poisoning inquiry Hospital criticized strongly over outbreak which killed 19 patients

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Strong criticism of the management of Stanley Royd psychiatric hospital in Wakefield, where 19 patients died and more than 400 patients and staff became ill in an outbreak of food poisoning in 1984, came yesterday from the committee of inquiry into the outbreak.

Senior administrators, doctors, nurses and catering staff and managers are criticized for actions before, during or after the outbreak, thought to be the worst case of hospital food poisoning this century.

The report says it is "an incredible" that apart from expressing sympathy, the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority has not discussed the outbreak, its causes or actions planned and that the failure of the regional medical officer to visit the hospital was "a negation of one of his prime responsibilities".

However, junior doctors at the "Dickensian" 830-bed mental illness hospital, and nursing staff on the wards are highly praised. Their efforts are described as remarkable in conditions that were at times atrocious. On some wards, up to 80 per cent of the patients, were unable to follow the simplest instructions on personal hygiene.

The inquiry found that previous outbreaks of food poisoning at the hospital included one involving nine patients and one death in 1974, and one involving 33 patients in 1979.

In 1982, ward staff refused to serve patients with a meal of mince which was later found to contain "alarming" levels of food poisoning bacteria. The report says that "with grim precision" the kitchen superintendent recorded that "next

The inquiry committee was chaired by Mr John Huggill, QC, with Professor Rosalinde Hurley, Professor of Microbiology at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in London and Mr Patrick Salmon, chairman of South West Surrey Health Authority as members.

The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into an Outbreak of Food Poisoning at Stanley Royd Hospital (Command: 9716; Stationery Office (£8.80) ...

time we may not be so lucky". Plans to rebuild the kitchen, originally at a cost of £155,000, were put together in 1978. But six years later they had not been put into effect. Since the outbreak, £76,000 has been spent on the kitchen and a new £645,000 kitchen has been approved.

During the outbreak, which started on the August Bank Holiday weekend, senior doctors and nurse managers failed to visit the wards to check that junior doctors and nurses were coping. No outside expert assistance was sought by anyone concerned with the outbreak for 11 days after it started.

When help was offered, by specialist physicians in infectious diseases, by the Public Health Laboratory Service directors and by the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, it was rejected. Offers of extra nursing help from outside the hospital were rejected although the hospital was understaffed.

The hospital took 27 hours to call in the local environmental health officer, who arrived within 40 minutes; and two and a half weeks to notify formally the Chief Medical Officer of the outbreak. The

Department of Health learnt of it from press reports.

"It seems to us to be most unfortunate that the available assistance was not sought and that the offers of assistance were not accepted," the report says.

The source of the outbreak cannot be identified with absolute certainty, it says. The most likely source was beef served on the Saturday afternoon, with the outbreak starting on the Sunday morning.

The way the meal was prepared with the meat cooked a day in advance gave "ample opportunity" for it to be contaminated with salmonella from uncooked chickens that were also in the kitchen and were defrosted on a food preparation surface.

The most likely route was through a knife used on the chickens, or by somebody's hand, with the beef stored, in hot weather, in conditions "which could not have been improved upon from the point of view of allowing bacteria to grow and multiply".

The wide spread of the contamination was ensured by use of a meat slicer that was not properly cleaned.

The report is highly critical of conditions in the Stanley Royd kitchen, but more so of staff practices and the supervision and management of the kitchen staff. "Poor conditions in the kitchen area will not of themselves cause an outbreak of food poisoning," the report says.

Staff practices however were "unhygienic, unusual and unsatisfactory". The outbreak occurred because those concerned "ignored" the well-known rules and principles of good catering practice.

## Prosecution 'no answer to dirty kitchens'

The abolition of hospitals' crown immunity to prosecution for breaches of food hygiene regulations "would appear unnecessary" the committee of inquiry says. (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

Compliance with the regulations rather than punishment should be the objective, it says. Conditions at Stanley Royd hospital "at no time would have justified a prosecution".

Wakefield Health Authority would have responded to calls to improve the kitchen "had they been told that they must or should effect changes immediately", the committee believes.

It says "We believe that, if the reports had been in a stronger terms, the kitchen would have been improved at an earlier date."

The committee recommends steps to ensure such reports are acted on in future (see recommendations). But it says, "We find it impossible to recommend any change in the law on the vexed question of crown immunity where the entirety of the evidence given to us by the professional EHOs was to the effect that the sanctions of the criminal law would not have been employed at Stanley Royd, even if they had been available."

The inquiry opposes the creation of a new national inspectorate. It says "If proper hygiene standards cannot be maintained by a competent and trained staff under a catering manager, supervising daily, monitored regularly by a district catering adviser overseen by a regional catering adviser and inspected twice a year by a medical adviser who is nominated for his expertise in this task, and one a year by environmental health officers, then we do not think that they ever will be maintained."

## Tighter hygiene rules recommended

Controversially, the committee of inquiry does not recommend an end to hospitals' crown immunity to prosecution of the food hygiene regulations, saying that "compliance rather than punishment should be the objective" (Nicholas Timmins writes).

But its key recommendations include: Twice yearly visits by local catering works and medical specialists to all kitchens and

food handling areas, and at least annual inspections by local environmental health officers.

All visits should be unannounced. Where, in other premises, a warning, prosecution or closure would follow, formal notices should be issued to unit and district managers setting out the period in which improvements should be made.

If managers fail to comply,

the notice should go to the regional general manager.

All districts should have a "major outbreak" plan to deal with future big outbreaks of food poisoning or communicable disease.

There should be a legal obligation to seek expert assistance from the local public health laboratory and to inform the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre in any outbreak involving more than

20 cases in 24 hours. Specialist advice should be sought "at the earliest moment".

Authorities must recognize that "the kitchen of a hospital is a high risk area". Failure by staff to observe food hygiene codes should be a disciplinary offence, as should failure by catering managers and supervisors to ensure compliance.

There must be proper training, retraining and constant supervision of staff

## Unionists risk split on threat to pull out of Westminster

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The leaders of Northern Ireland's Unionist parties threatened yesterday that 15 loyalist MPs might withdraw from Westminster if the government continues to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement.

With overwhelming support for their "Ulster says No" campaign assured in tomorrow's by-elections, the leadership of the Official Unionist and Democratic parties are refusing to discuss the strategy they will follow in the months ahead.

Despite repeated questioning at their final joint press conference in Belfast the two party leaders would not say what their tactics would be, but insisted that they did have a strategy to wreck the agreement. It is likely that within a few weeks the Unionist parties will start organizing the withdrawal from boards running education and health, and the refusal of Unionist-controlled district councils to set a rate by the deadline of February 15.

However, any attempt to enforce abstention from Westminster, which has previously been a republican tactic, risks opening divisions between the two parties.

The DUP led by the Rev Ian Paisley is prepared to withdraw its three MPs from Westminster, but there is considerable opposition to such a move within the Official Unionist parliamentary party.

Mr Enoch Powell is insisting that he is not a "Sinn Féiner"

and that Parliament is where the fight against the deal should take place.

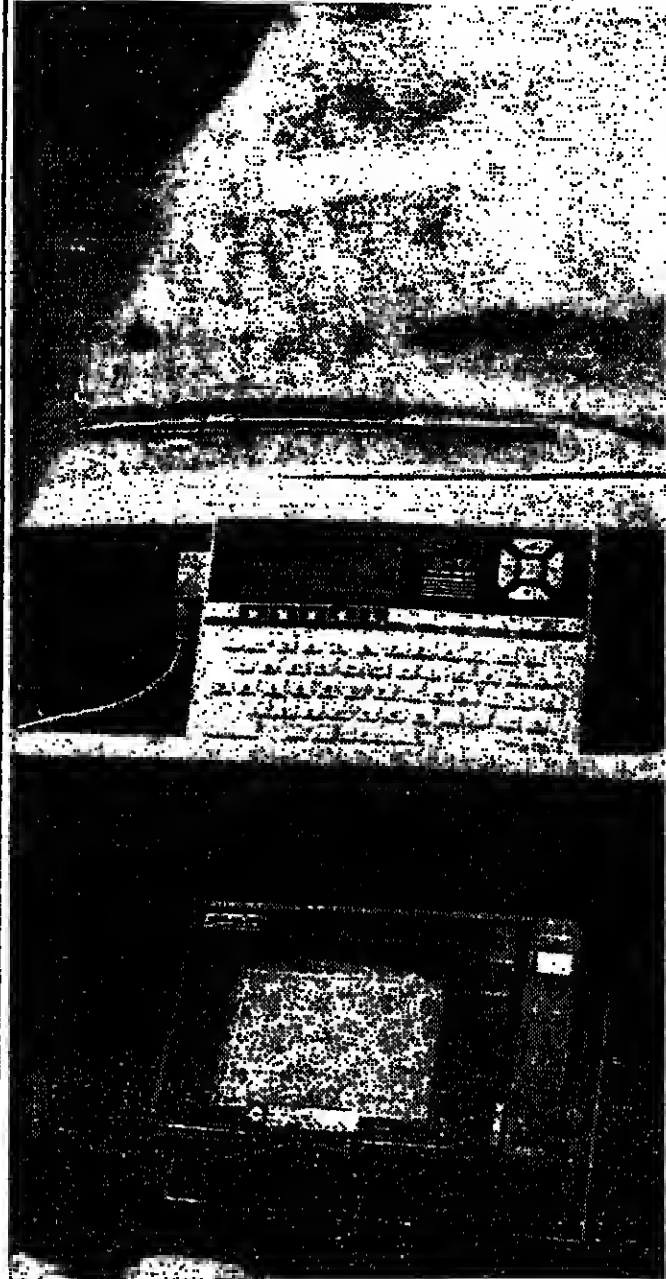
When he was asked about abstention from Westminster, Mr Paisley increased the pressure on Mr James Molyneux by saying: "Mr Molyneux has made it clear. Do you think we would take part in a charade? If this agreement takes root, to attend Westminster would be giving credence to a charade. If the Government goes on with this agreement there is no place for self-respecting MPs at Westminster."

Sitting alongside him in the headquarters of the Official Unionist Party Mr Molyneux was more circumspect. He said that if the Government continued to implement the deal in all its forms it would be a great extort render MPs from all parties to the oorth redudaoat.

Mr Paisley ridiculed the efforts of the Northern Ireland Coexistence Group which sponsored the letter.

The signatures on it included those of Lady Faulkner of Downpatrick, widow of the last Prime Minister of Northern Ireland; Sir John Swinson, chairman of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board; Professor Desmond Rea; Mr Paddy Devlin, the trades unionist and ex-minister in the power-sharing executive; and the owners of one of Belfast's leading department stores.

Danger signals, page 16



The electronic car compass, which gives road-by-road directions to a destination (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

## Car direction finder shows drivers the way

The world's Press went to a remote Hampshire manor yesterday for the first public demonstration of a remarkable new British electronic navigation system for cars which dispenses with maps (Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent, writes).

Called Pace (Plessey Adaptive Compass Equipment), its development was disclosed in *The Times* last Thursday. Since then, the company has been overwhelmed by requests for information, and it responded by organizing the demonstration at Roke Manor, Plessey's security-conscious research centre at Romsey, Hampshire.

I quened along with colleagues for one and a half hours

to take a brief spin at the wheel of a Ford Granada equipped with the device.

The grid reference of Roke Manor and our destination was fed into the equipment and we were off. From then on it was only a matter of following the directions given on a small digital display unit. "Turn left in 100 yards" and so on.

Plessey says it will cost about £500 and has many applications for counter terrorist and defence work in addition to guiding the motorist.

In spite of the shortcomings of its temporary installation I saw sufficient of Pace's potential yesterday to say that it is one of the most exciting new arrivals on the motoring scene for a long time.

## El Al lifts Manchester flights ban

From Peter Davenport, Manchester

A compromise agreement between the Department of Transport and El Al, the Israeli airline, brought an end yesterday to the dispute that has led to the suspension of the company's flights out of Manchester airport.

The airline had halted its operations in protest at proposed new security measures after terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

Yesterday, however, Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Aviation, announced while visiting Manchester airport that negotiations with a delegation of security officials from El Al had produced an agreement.

## 'Little hope' for poorer families

Unemployed families with children will be almost off better off under the Government's social security reforms now before Parliament, the Policy Studies Institute said yesterday.

This group, which is worst off under the present system, needs £16.75 a week more to put it on a par with other claimants.

Many sick and disabled people will receive a generous increase in income, the institute says. But less than half of those in need will qualify.

The analysis of the Government's plans comes just before Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, appears before the House of Commons select committee on social services.

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## The first of the vaccines and the last of the Mohicans.

In the year 1800, a US presidential candidate named Thomas Jefferson explained to Chief Little Turtle and his warriors that "the Great Spirit had made a gift to the white man in showing them how to preserve themselves from the smallpox."

And so, during a visit to Washington D.C., the last of the Mohicans were duly inoculated against the disease which had been responsible for wiping out more Indian tribes than the white men themselves.

The vaccine used owed much of its origins to a Dorset farmer by the name of Benjamin Jesty. He knew of the folk belief that an attack of cowpox gave protection from smallpox and, in 1774, he saw the proof of this during a severe outbreak of the disease in his local village.

Two of his milkmaids had caught cowpox on their hands by milking cows with infected udders and had nursed their families through smallpox without catching the dreaded disease themselves.

Jesty had already had cowpox, but his wife and their two children had not. Concerned for their safety, he scratched their forearms with a 'stocking needle' and inserted the cowpox virus from the sores on the infected cows' udders. Although the Jesty family were not immune from the resulting scandal of this 'experiment', they never caught smallpox.

But the real breakthrough came some twenty years later in 1796 when Edward Jenner, an English country doctor, made the first scientific approach to the subject of immunisation.

His experiments proved the value of cowpox inoculation and the potential of artificial transmission. Not from cow to human, but from human to human, producing only a small sore at the site of inoculation and very little evidence of disease.

The now familiar name 'vaccine' was born, derived from the latin name for cowpox, 'vaccinia' (from the latin, 'vacca', a cow).

Jenner's vaccination techniques spread across the world faster than the disease itself. Napoleon had his troops vaccinated with "le vaccin jennerien" and, in honouring Jenner, was

reported to have said that "he could refuse him absolutely nothing."

In Russia, the first child to be vaccinated was given the name 'Vaccinof'. Many countries made vaccination compulsory. And the newly elected President Jefferson of the USA said in a letter to Jenner, "Future nations will know by history only that the loathsome smallpox has existed and by you has been extirpated."

Prophetic words indeed. In 1980, the World Health Assembly officially declared that smallpox had been completely eradicated from the planet.

But the battle to rid the world of other diseases is still being fought. Especially in the developing countries.

The pharmaceutical industry supplies the bulk of the vaccines currently used in the World Health Organization's programme to provide immunisation for every child in the world against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis by the year 1990.

The small number of research based companies that develop and produce these vaccines are also trying to assist the less industrialised nations by producing more heat-stable products, improving distribution facilities and providing local training.

And for the future, although vaccines do not enjoy adequate patent protection, the industry is using all the recent advances in biotechnology to develop radically new immunising techniques.

Effective protection against diseases like malaria and leprosy should soon be introduced, and vaccines against other tropical diseases may well follow.

Without adequate investment, this enormous effort would not be possible.

And the people of other nations would not be so lucky as the last of the Mohicans.

If you'd like further information about the British Pharmaceutical Industry, write to: Dr. John Griffin, The ABPI, 12 Whitehall, London SW1 2DY.



The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.



# Blockade kept up as Pretoria talks to new Lesotho regime

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Talks were held in Cape Town yesterday between South Africa and a delegation from Lesotho to discuss the situation following the takeover by the Army in Lesotho on Monday in a bloodless coup.

## Swedish warning on South Africa links

Lesotho could lose some of the aid it receives from Sweden, one of its largest donors, if the military rulers who seized power align the country too closely with South Africa, an aid official said in Stockholm.

Mr Mats Sandgren, of the state-run Swedish International Development Authority, said direct aid to Lesotho of about \$4.5 million (£3 million) a year was aimed at reducing its dependence on South Africa.

A short statement by the South Africans said there had been a wide-ranging exchange of views on matters of importance to both countries, and agreement to work for the promotion of good neighbourliness.

Since New Year's Day, Pretoria has subjected all traffic entering Lesotho, which is surrounded by South Africa, to rigorous security checks.

# Big business points the way to Botha

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South African industrialists yesterday called for far-reaching political and economic reforms, including universal suffrage with "due regard being given to the protection of the rights of minorities".

In an "Action Programme" released at a press conference here, the South African Federated Chamber of Industries suggested the following "basic preconditions" for successful negotiation on the constitutional future of the country.

An undertaking by government to abolish statutory race discrimination in all legislation, and in particular those laws restricting the movement of blacks outside the tribal reserves and enforcing racial segregation of residential areas.

The restoration of a common South African common law and an end to arbitrary detention.

The release of all political prisoners from detention. The FCI, which includes both Afrikaans and English-speaking businessmen, also published a "charter of social, economic and political rights" equally applicable to all citizens of South Africa whatever their race.

The businessmen's aim appears to be to send a signal to Mr P. W. Botha, the South African President, who is due to open the 1986 session of Parliament in Cape Town on January 31 with a speech that will set the Government's policy agenda for the coming year.

Big business is concerned that this could prove another international flop like the notorious "Rubicon" speech in Durban last August, which led to a collapse of world confidence in the South African economy.

Record inflation, page 23

## Italian recipe condemned

# Storm over TV channel rages round Mitterrand

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The storm raging over President Mitterrand's having granted the concession for France's first private television channel to a Franco-Italian partnership has reached new heights, after the disclosure of the new channel's proposed programme schedule and outright government rejection of advice from the independent High Authority on its conditions of contract.

The lightweight diet of Italian-style variety and television games, interspersed with American films and soap operas unveiled in Paris on Monday by Signor Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian television magnate and vice president of the new channel, has confirmed his critics' worst fears.

Signor Berlusconi's name has long been a byword in French intellectual circles for all that is trashy and mediocre on television.

Not a single wholly French-produced programme or film is included on the schedule. Nor have any French stars of television and stage yet signed up with the new company.

The package gives the impression of having been thrown together in a great hurry, as indeed it was. The Berlusconi television, as it is known, although Signor Berlusconi owns only 40 per cent of the partnership, is to open on February 20, only three months after having gained the con-

cession to secret negotiations with the Government.

From the outset there was uproar over the apparent underhand way in which the deal was clinched, as well as over special privileges proposed for the channel.

For the first time, a French channel is to be allowed to interrupt films with publicity spots for an hour. The channel will not be required, as are the three state-owned channels, to show a minimum number of hours a year of original French-produced and European films. On the other hand, it attained to show large-screen films two years after general release, instead of the three years required for the public channels.

The condemnation of these special privileges by the nine "wise men" of the High Authority set up by the Socialists in 1982 to oversee standards in television and radio, has gone unheeded by the Government.

M Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist RPR party, said on Monday that he did not want Signor Berlusconi's involvement "at any price... We will do everything possible within the law to break this concession."

The opposition sees the channel as a dangerous obstacle to its plans to privatize two of the state-owned channels as soon as the right is returned to power.



A new island which emerged after an undersea volcano erupted at the beginning of the week off Iwo Jima, in the Pacific. The new island is 500 by 700 yd and rises 45 ft above the water. Iwo Jima, 750 miles from Tokyo, was the scene of one of the fiercest Pacific battles of the last war.

# Britons more optimistic about EEC future

From Richard Owen, Brussels

For the first time in five years a majority of people in the EEC are optimistic about the future of Europe and believe that 1986 will bring benefits to Community citizens, according to an opinion poll released by the EEC Commission yesterday.

The poll, conducted by Eurobarometer, the EEC's own public opinion survey, found that those who felt 1986 would be a good year for Europe outnumber the pessimists by 32 per cent to 24 per cent. Only in

Belgium, Greece and Portugal were the optimists still in a minority.

Of British citizens questioned, 37 per cent were positive in their assessment of the prospects for the coming year in the EEC compared to 32 per cent in last year's poll.

Paradoxically, although most Britons support Community membership, 53 per cent feel Britain has not benefited from EEC membership.

Thirty per cent of Britons questioned said they were Euro-pessimists.

Paradoxically, although most Britons support Community membership, 53 per cent feel Britain has not benefited from EEC membership.

# Punjab police act to curb extremists

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Police in Punjab arrested 200 Sikh militants all over the state yesterday to prevent them from joining extremist Sikh youths in virtual control of the Akal Takht, the traditional seat of Sikh power in the Golden Temple at Amritsar which they have threatened to demolish on Sunday, India's Republic Day, and then rebuild.

The Shrimoni Gurdwara Parbandak Committee (SGPC), which manages Sikh temples, declared some time ago that it would undertake the job from January 27. Extremist young Sikhs, including members of the All India Sikh Students Federation, snatched 14 double-barrelled guns from the SGPC workers yesterday, highlighting the confrontation between the two sides.

The rebuilding of the Akal Takht, which the Indian Government repaired after it was partly destroyed by the army in June, 1984, is a pretext by both sides to test their following among the Sikhs. The SGPC is supported by the Akali Dal Government in Punjab and

supports the accord reached between Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and the late Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, which extremist Sikh youths have rejected. They want a more autonomous Sikh state.

The uncertainty hanging over Fazilka and Abhor, the two Hindi-speaking towns in Punjab and the Lok Dal's call in Haryana to stop traffic tomorrow have increased tension in both states. The report on the latest count in Kundu Khera, a Punjabi-speaking village between Abhor and Fazilka, which stands between Hindi-speaking areas, was submitted yesterday to the border commission studying the issue of which of the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab should go to Haryana to return for Chandigarh's integration in Punjab.

The Delhi Police Commissioner, Mr Ved Morwah, said that extremist plans to create panic on Republic Day, and to kill VIPs had been foiled following among the Sikhs. The arrest of Harjinder Singh, aged 24, who is wanted for murder,

# Teenage time of trouble

Stockholm - Increasing numbers of Swedish teenagers are unable to tell the time on a conventional clock because of the influence of digital clocks and watches, according to a report published yesterday (Our Correspondent writes).

A survey of more than 2,000 teenagers by the state publishing

company Liber showed that one in five no longer understood the expression "quarter to three". They preferred "2.45" or "14.45".

One in three of the teenagers found difficulty counting in time with a digital watch, because it is a question of 00ths rather than 10ths or 100ths.

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# Anglo-Soviet relations given boost by minister's London visit

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Anglo-Soviet relations, severely damaged by last autumn's ill-fated "spy" expulsions, are now back on an upward turn as a result of two days of talks which Mr Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet deputy foreign minister, has held in London.

It is hoped in Whitehall that the rapprochement will be accelerated further when Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, begins his long-awaited visit here, probably in spring.

As evidence of the new warmth in Anglo-Soviet relations, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, called Mr Ryzhov to his office on Monday for an unscheduled meeting during which he expressed the government's thanks for Moscow's help in getting British and other foreigners out of South Yemen.

The Soviet Union has allowed its embassy compound in Aden to be used as a gathering point for foreigners awaiting evacuation and relayed information about the fighting to British warships offshore.

Most of Mr Ryzhov's talks were taken up with the intricacy of bilateral relations, such as trade, cultural exchanges, embassy sites and visas.

But Mr Ryzhov, the Kremlin's foremost expert on British affairs, also devoted considerable time to outlining Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's latest proposal for ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

The plan contains a number of new elements, including a proposal to scrap all Soviet and American intermediate-range weapons in Europe within eight years while allowing Britain and France to keep their independent nuclear force at existing levels.

Mr Ryzhov urged Sir Geoffrey and Mr Derek Thomas, his opposite number at the Foreign Office, to give serious consideration to the offer.

It is expected that Gorbachev's proposals will be discussed in detail when Mr Shevardnadze comes to London. British and Soviet officials

# Buy British, Tokyo minister urged

From Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Donning her hat as Britain's number one sales person, Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday urged Japan to buy more British products to narrow the yawning trade gap between the two countries.

During talks at Downing Street with Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, she made a strong sales pitch for the Tornado jet to fill the role of strike fighter in the Japanese Air Self-Defence Force. She also urged Japan to show restraint in fishing around the Falkland Islands.

Japan, which has one of the largest fishing fleets in the South Atlantic, is among several countries being consulted by the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization about ways of regulating fishing in the region.

It is feared that stocks of squid, whiting and hake will become seriously depleted if catches around the Falkland Islands continue at their present levels.

The visit by Mr Abe, who also held talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is the sixteenth in a series of regular Anglo-Japanese political consultations.

Among matters he raised was the seven-nation economic summit in Tokyo in May. Mrs Thatcher said that trade and



American entertainers Amy Grant (left), Stevie Wonder and Diana Ross at a rehearsal for an all-star celebration honouring Martin Luther King, the murdered civil rights leader, at the Kennedy Centre in Washington.

# Paying the price for slave labour

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

One by one, the traditional great names of German industry are being drawn on to the subject of which of them used slave labour during the Second World War, and which later compensated the survivors among slave labourers.

The issue was reopened by the decision this month, by the present owners of the Flick industrial concern to pay DM5 million to each survivor as can be found.

So long as it was owned by the Flick family, the firm refused any payment. But the family sold out to Deutsche Bank, which in turn will sell it to the public - or at least to a group of huge share-owning institutions - by means of a share issue later this year.

The Deutsche, the largest German bank, prides itself on its dependability and respectability, and its embodiment of the "new Germany". It did not want to have to renege on justice to some of the old Germany's victims. Moreover, that refusal would have damaged the Flick share issue with American investors.

On Monday Daimler-Benz, now a great high-technology enterprise as well as the makers of the famous cars, announced that it had asked for its role in the Third Reich to be studied by independent historians. It would then consider whether payment of any compensation was necessary.

The explanation for this change of attitude lies in the change in ownership of the great names of the German economy. Daimler-Benz, like Flick, is no longer run by its patriarchal founders, but by a series of highly salaried managers, most of whom were too young to have had much involvement in any aspect of the Second World War.

This may mean they feel no guilt for what the firms did then. But it also means that compensation could be paid without their feeling that the blame for using slave labour rests with them.

Daimler-Benz is celebrating its centenary this year, and the celebrations would be clouded by any controversy over slave labour and compensation. The inquiry will be carried out under Professor Hans Pohl, of an institute in Cologne which specializes in the history of companies.

He said on Monday in Stuttgart, Daimler-Benz's headquarters, that during the war the firm made aircraft engines, anti-aircraft guns and lorries.

Prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates were sent to work there from mid-1942.

A spokesman for one of the other great names, BMW, said he was "greatly surprised" when the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* asked whether BMW would be looking into the compensation question.

He understood that this was covered by German reparations after the war, and that he could not yet discuss what BMW would be doing.

# Mafia opts for younger leadership Crime Inc puts finishing touches to its new management team

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Boardroom changes in America's largest criminal organization now seem complete. There is a tough new management team. At a time when Mafia leadership is something of a gerontocracy the reshuffle puts a younger man at the top. It is also a reminder that for all the appearance of pin-striped respectability adopted by its overlords the Mafia's principal dynamics are violence and the instilling of fear.

It will be remembered that the chairman of the board was rubbed out last month. His vice-chairman, who liked to keep order by banging people over the head with a baseball bat, perished at his side.

"Big Paul" Castellano was godfather of the largest of the five New York Mafia families which have carved up the crime here. Drugs, gambling, usury, protection rackets and robbery, are only part of their operations. They leech on to many businesses, like the fish

Danegeld paid to criminals is one of the reasons why building costs are very high in New York. Police reckon that a quarter of the price of some building contracts goes to the Mafia.

Similarly, many businessmen, haulage and refuse contractors and restaurateurs pay levies to gangsters. The President's Commission on Organized Crime reported this week that four large unions, in transport, docks, hotels and construction, are controlled by organized crime, spreading economic corruption to a number of industries. Effectively the Mafia imposes a tax on goods and services.

Interestingly, the juicier bulk of the commission's report was withheld because the judge in a New York Mafia trial complained that it would prejudice the hearing.

Mr Castellano was a defendant in this trial, one of three Mafia cases going on here. He and nine others were accused of racketeering and murder. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York denied him a funeral Mass because of a fear that the Church would be seen as endorsing organized crime. Lawyers for the other defendants argued that the Church's decision, and the publicity prejudiced the trial. But the judge ordered the case to proceed.

Had Mr Castellano lived, he would have been in the loop of Mafia figures in an important trial scheduled for the spring.

The Mob is paid a quarter of some building contracts

markets, restaurants, transport and the booming construction industry. The new Manhattan skyscrapers are good ovens to the Mafia.

On projects worth more than \$2 million builders pay a two per cent Mafia fee. Mob-controlled unions, tilt builders where to get materials and services. Co-operation ensures industrial peace.

Agreement with the Micronesian state is part of the overall arrangement ending US trusteeship over the islands, and must be approved by the US Congress and by the Palau national congress in a plebiscite on February 24.

The arrangement will complete a US defensive arc in the Pacific, stretching from Guam to the northern Marianas, and is seen in Washington as a vital alternative to the Clark air base and the Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines.

Worried by the growing threat from communist Filipino guerrillas, the Pentagon estimates that it will cost \$8 billion (£5.5 billion) to relocate the bases, the largest US military facilities abroad, if Manila refuses to renew the lease agreement on its expiry in 1991.

The agreement with Palau permits US access and building rights on two existing airfields, port construction and use of 40 acres of Malakal harbour, and use of the largest island for military manoeuvres and training.

Palau itself is of little military significance. But it offers the potential for refuelling stops and reconnaissance in support of larger facilities under consideration for Guam and the northern Marianas.

Administration officials say that Palau is unlikely ever fully to replace the two Philippine bases. With a population of only 13,000, it offers little opportunity for rest and recreation for the large number of men now stationed in the Philippines.

Under the compact of free association, signed recently in Koror, the capital of Palau, the US agreed to assume full authority and responsibility for the defence and security of the islands, and will spend \$421 million in economic assistance. The US also has the right to restrict the access of other foreign armed forces to Palau.

Union to appear in a US television commercial

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The commercial, to be shown by the US networks next spring, shows her among her less expensively clad fellow citizens trying to buy a copy of *Truth*, the Soviet trade union daily.

The Central Committee encouraged the commercial because they are fed up with Russian women always being depicted in the West as unfashionable and dumpy" said Mr Wolfe, dressed in an ankle-length sable. "Under Mr Gorbachev, things are changing, people are more open and more helpful. There is definitely a lighter touch."

# Bail for woman on witch charge

Johannesburg (AFP) - A French fortune teller, "Mina" Jeanette Montes, has been freed on charges of being a witch. She is thought to be the first white person since 1943 brought to trial under South Africa's anti-witchcraft legislation.

She was arrested by two policemen after allegedly threatening to turn them into frogs. They had gone to her home after complaints filed by unsatisfied customers, according to press reports.

French consular officials confirmed that Mme Montes was a French citizen, but gave her age as 39 and not 31 as listed on the charge sheet.

# New supersonic airliner plan

Paris (Reuters) - France's state-owned Aerospatiale, which built Concorde jointly with British Aerospace, said yesterday it was developing a larger, longer-range model and would welcome international participation.

The plane would be designed to carry between 200 and 300 passengers and have a cruising speed of Mach 2.5 (close to 1,700 mph) compared with Concorde's Mach 2 speed. Birthday celebrations, page 18

# Murder-case escapers held

Barcelona (Reuters) - Police have detained two Spaniards accused of murdering David Mathieson, aged 43, a Scottish tourist, in a mugging attempt in the resort of Lloret del Mar in September 1984. The two escaped trial last month by holding a judge and clerk at knifepoint.

Jesus Serret was detained entering a taxi in Barcelona, and Enrique Aparici Perez at a party in his mother's house.

# Boy kidnapped to be jockey

Abu Dhabi (AFP) - A Bangladeshi boy aged four, living with his parents in the United Arab Emirates, was kidnapped here and rented out to be trained as a camel jockey, a newspaper reported.

Police in the town of Ajman rescued Mohammed Ismail and returned him to his father 24 hours after he was kidnapped, reportedly by a Pakistani labourer.

# Poet mourned

Prague (Reuters) - Thousands of mourners, including some of Czechoslovakia's leading dissidents, filed past the body of the Nobel Prize-winning poet Jaroslav Seifert lying in state in Rudolfinum, yesterday. He died on January 10 aged 84.

# Guru decision

Karlsruhe (Reuters) - A West German regional court has cleared the way for the extradition to the US of Ma Anand Sheela, former aide to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, and two others. All are wanted on charges of conspiracy to murder the guru.

# Bonner released

Newton, Massachusetts (AFP) - Yelena Bonner, the wife of the Soviet dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov, was released from Massachusetts General Hospital on Monday, a week after undergoing heart bypass surgery.

# Guillotine plea

Paris (Reuters) - M Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the right-wing National Front party, called for France to reintroduce the death penalty, abolished in 1981, and said he personally favoured the guillotine.

# 18 executed

Peking (AP) - Eighteen convicted murderers, rapists and thieves were sentenced to death at a huge public rally in Peking and then executed by being shot in the back of their heads, reports said.

# US reunion

Newark, New Jersey (Reuters) - Three Russian men were reunited with their American wives here under a deal made before the November US-Soviet summit.

# Heroin haul

Hong Kong (AFP) - Customs officers seized 88lbs of heroin worth 300 million Hong Kong dollars (\$38.5 million) inside unclaimed baggage at the airport here.

# More tourists

Peking (AFP) - A total of 1.38 million foreign tourists visited China last year, 21 per cent more than in 1984, the New China Agency said.

# Terror files seized by Belgians

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium's justice authorities yesterday displayed the captured archives of the country's main leftist urban guerrilla group and announced the arrest of another suspect.

The public prosecutor, Mr André Van Doren, said that 12 volumes of files were seized, with explosives, a pistol, a partially completed bomb, army maps and fake identity papers in a "safe house" of the Fighting Communist Cells (CCC) here last week.

The group has made 27 bomb attacks on Nato, US and Belgian establishments targets in the past 15 months. Four key CCC suspects arrested last month have been charged with attempted murder, conspiracy and firearms offences.

The captured documents included maps of Nato jet pipelines across Belgium, which the CCC has attacked several times, and reference books listing prominent Belgian businessmen, judges, civil servants, politicians and other potential targets.

Mr Van Doren said that the arrested man, Mr Luc Van Acker, was linked with another leftist group, the Revolutionary Front for Proletarian Action (Frap), which carried out three bombings last spring but has since been dormant.

Mr Van Acker, aged 24, has been charged with criminal conspiracy. The prosecutor said that his fingerprints were found in another flat "used to prepare and make explosive devices and as a conspiracy centre by several terrorist movements".

Police believe Frap is linked to France's Action Directe urban guerrillas, but its relations with the CCC are not clear. Unlike the four CCC suspects, who have refused to answer questions, Mr Van Acker had made statements, Mr Van Doren said.

The CCC archives contained leaflets claiming responsibility for the group's attacks and photographs of targets, as well as meticulously filed newspaper clippings.

Among books seized were works by the Stalinist former leader of Albania, Enver Hoxha, as well as Marx, Lenin and the former Chinese leader, Lin Biao.

Police also found dozens of rounds of ammunition, a bullet-proof vest, instruction manuals for firearms, a walkie-talkie and a scanner radio used to tap police communications.

The reference books included *Who's Who in Francophone Belgium*, a judicial yearbook and a manual listing 5,000 Belgian businessmen.

Brussels (AP) - Police have seized \$1 million worth of smuggled trucks in Antwerp. They came from an East African port which officials refused to identify.



Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, with Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street yesterday.

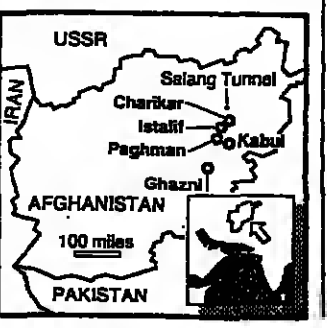
# Soviet bombs take their toll of Afghan civilians

Islamabad (Reuters) - About 100 civilians, including at least 14 women and children, have been killed this month by Soviet air attacks on the central Afghan towns of Charikar and Kuhistan. Western diplomats said yesterday.

Afghan troops suffered heavy losses when a convoy was attacked by Islamic guerrillas south of the town of Ghazni. Soviet troops retaliated with heavy aerial bombing.

The diplomats said that government security measures in Kabul had been more intense in the past week, apparently for an extraordinary session of the revolutionary council.

Kabul has named 79 new members to the revolutionary



council, headed by President Karmal. Seventy-one per cent were appointed from outside the ruling Communist Party in what seemed to be an attempt to broaden the Government's base.

Prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates were sent to work there from mid-1942.

A spokesman for one of the other great names, BMW, said he was "greatly surprised" when the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* asked whether BMW would be looking into the compensation question.

He understood that this was covered by German reparations after the war, and that he could not yet discuss what BMW would be doing.

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# Singapore arrest of MP shocks Malaysia

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's Chinese community was shocked by the arrest in Singapore yesterday of Tan Koon Swan, a senior politician in Malaysia's ruling coalition.

Leaders of the Malaysian Chinese Association of Singapore, Tan Koon Swan was elected president only seven weeks ago, met in emergency session to discuss the implications.

Tan Koon Swan, an MP and a leading businessman, was arrested as he arrived in Singapore for routine talks with the authorities over his involvement with the giant Pan-Electric concern, the once high-flying Singapore company which collapsed two months ago. It had more than 90 subsidiaries.

Singapore sources said that the prosecution would ask for a "high enough" bail which be is

# Fashion furs fill coffers of the Kremlin

From Christopher Walker, Leningrad

More than 2½ million pelts, exceeding £32 million in value, are being traded this week at the world's largest fur auction. It is a hazy event at which communists and capitalists put aside ideological differences for a hectic five days to satisfy the fashion whims of the rich.

Although bidding takes place in the freezing heart of Leningrad, the only language used is English and all prices are quoted in US dollars. The location is dictated by the Soviet Union's jealously guarded monopoly of sable, which provides most valuable fur.

Sable pelts were a key factor in the plot of *Gorky Park*, a thriller banned by the Kremlin.

The atmosphere of intrigue has been reinforced by two leading Western fur traders who claim that intelligence material

has emerged to show that in the 1950s the Russians sabotaged an effort to break the monopoly when two sables, exchanged for American breeding minks in a secret deal, were found to be castrated. Soviet officials deny the allegation.

In interviews with *The Times*, senior Soviet, American and British representatives pledged a common battle against the efforts of the animal rights lobby, whose recent attacks have put the industry on the defensive. Fearing adverse publicity, Soviet authorities yesterday withdrew permission for a Western photographer to film saibles at a breeding ranch.

Mr Hugh Dwan, managing director of the Hudson's Bay Company and a leading member of the 60-strong British delegates, said that the latest market research had isolated the career woman - "a female

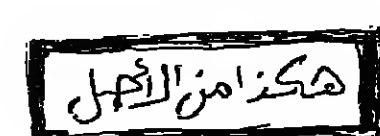
aged between 25 and 45 spending her own money" - as the main buyer of furs. "They are not likely to be influenced by a bunch of teenage anarchists", he said.

Few of the 250 bidders from 30 countries, who gathered in the imposing "Fur Palace", showed any inclination to note the irony of such an opulent event being staged in the city of the 1917 Revolution. The winter auction is the most important of the three staged annually in the city.

Similarly Mr Yuri Mashkin, general director of the Soviet State Fur Company, dismissed questioned about the peculiarity of the Soviet Union's doing so much to help to satisfy the demand for one of the most coveted Western luxuries.

The Soviet Union exports 15 per cent of its fur production,

DAVID ROBERTS R.A. THE HOLY LAND PRINTS IN ORIGINAL COLOUR The Concessionaire Gallery 14/15 Halkin Arcade London SW1X 8JT Tel: 01-845 8431





# Row over Libyan terror blights Greek efforts to improve US relations

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Efforts to upgrade Greek-American relations suffered a sudden setback yesterday when Athens accused Mr John Whitehead, the US deputy Secretary of State, of lying.

Mr Whitehead, who is touring NATO countries to drum up support for US sanctions against Libya, said that the Greek leaders he met had agreed that Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, was behind recent terrorist attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports last month.

A Greek government spokesman said that this was untrue. "No Greek official ever so-

knowledgeed to Mr Whitehead that Colonel Gaddafi was involved in terrorist attacks." The American Embassy, which had senior officials at Mr Whitehead's meetings, said it stood by his remarks.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister, who spent several hours with Mr Whitehead, told a news conference yesterday that, in fact, the Greek Government possessed evidence that Libya was not implicated in the attacks.

The Greek Foreign Minister has had meetings with Mr Ahmed Sabani, described as a Libyan deputy Foreign Minister, who is in Athens explaining his government's views on the issue to Greek Government and opposition leaders.

Mr Papoulias said he had had a letter from his Libyan opposite number, Dr Ali Triki, declaring his country's readiness to co-operate with the West in combating international terrorism.

The deterioration in US-Greek relations comes at a time when the Socialist government of Mr Andrew Papandreu, under the burden of economic and other constraints, has been trying to improve the climate between Athens and Washington.

Mr Papoulias announced that Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, had "expressed the wish to visit Athens" and the Government had obliged by inviting him here from March 23 to 27.

It is clear, however, that in seeking a rapprochement with the US, Greece refuses to allow its rapport with communist and Arab countries to be disturbed in the least.

Mr Papandreu, who deplored Mr Whitehead's remarks as inadmissible, used the occasion of a peace meeting in Athens on Monday to give his unstinted support to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's arms reduction proposal.



Mrs Margaret Heckler, the newly-appointed US Ambassador to Ireland, at a news conference. She was formerly the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

# Easy win for Quebec Premier

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Robert Bourassa, the Prime Minister of Quebec, who led the Liberals back to province power on December 2 while failing to win a seat himself, returned to the Legislative Assembly on Monday when he easily won a by-election in the Montreal constituency of St Laurent.

Mr Bourassa was Premier of predominantly French-speaking Quebec for six years until his Liberal Government, and he personally, were defeated by the Parti Quebecois in November 1976. When the Liberals regained power, he suffered personal humiliation in the Bertrand Constituency. One of the successful Liberal candidates, Mr Germain Leduc, resigned his seat to allow Mr Bourassa - who had already resumed the Premiership, even though without a seat - could contest it in a by-election.

He obtained 16,135 votes (83 per cent), his closest rival among nine independent and fringe-party candidates obtaining only 1,692 in a 46 per cent poll.

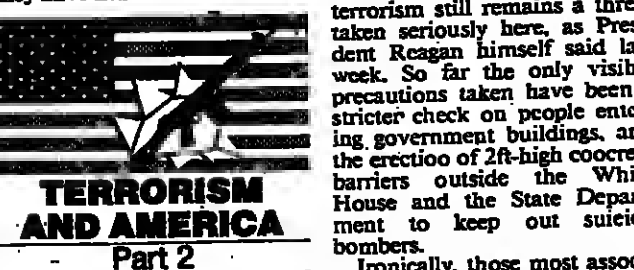
The Liberal Government has already signalled a new economic direction for Quebec. It introduced a budget a week before Christmas which cut taxes and sent a message to investors that - in the words of the budget speech, "We want to put the emphasis on economic growth and employment".

# Planning and vigilance America keeps its cool in face of the growing threat

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Surprisingly for a country so large, diverse and wracked by social and criminal violence, the United States is one of the Western democracies least plagued by terrorism. While Britain, West Germany, Spain and Italy all struggle with underground indigenous terrorist groupings, there is no organized American terrorist network here, nor has international terrorism made any headway within the United States itself. Americans may be heard also by other extremists such as Louis Farrakhan.

Nevertheless, Middle East terrorism still remains a threat taken seriously here, as President Reagan himself said last week. So far the only visible precautions taken have been a stricter check on people entering government buildings, and the erection of 2ft-high concrete barriers outside the White House and the State Department to keep out suicide bombers.



Ironically, these most associated in American minds with terrorism - Arabs and Communists - have been the principal victims here. Soviet organizations such as airline offices and the United Nations mission have received regular bomb threats and have suffered several actual attacks, mostly by the militant Jewish Defiance League.

But of the 23 aborted plots, nine at most were planned by foreign terrorists. Only one was an Arab - a Libyan diplomat expelled last June for allegedly trying to kill Libyan dissidents - who accounted for three of the cases. In 1985 terrorists managed to carry out only seven actual attacks inside the US, compared with 112 in 1977.

Mr Robert Oakley, head of the State Department's counterterrorism unit, said domestic terrorism was still "a serious problem", with the principal threats coming from Puerto Rican terrorists, inchoate neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups and other individuals with no clear political goals. But since the defeat of the ultra-leftist terrorists of the 1960s, the Weathermen, the Black Panthers and the Symbiouse Liberation Army which kidnapped Patty Hearst, no significant sections of American society have resorted to terrorism to pursue their aims.

Even the pursuit of foreign feuds on US soil has been controlled, though with large communities of Iranians, Libyans, Palestinians, Sikhs and Armenians, the potential danger is there: last year the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested Sikh extremists, Libyans, and Puerto Ricans backed by Cuba who were planning attacks. But in Colonel Gaddafi's campaign to kill exiled Libyan dissidents, only one in 30 of the attacks he sponsored between 1980 and June last year took place in the US, where some 1,200 Libyans are studying.

One reason for the comparative calm is that there are no terrorist groups in the US able to play on the sympathies of a section of the community, such as the IRA in Spain, or able to thrive in an atmosphere of disaffected youth, such as the Red Army Faction in West Germany.

Secondly, the United States is geographically far away from trouble spots such as the Middle East, and much harder to enter than Europe, where border controls are often lax. Almost every foreigner needs a visa - the Immigration Service keeps a strict watch, and the FBI is particularly vigilant at times of heightened threat. Last week US border patrols were tightened on the Canadian border after 19

Arab-American organizations have also reported a surge in threats and assaults. The large Arab community in Dearborn, Michigan - where members of the family of Mr Nabih Berri of Lebanon live - has grown accustomed to hate-mail, death-threats and vandalism. The Los Angeles office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee was fire bombed during the Achille Lauro crisis in October, and Mr Alex Odch, its director, was killed. A suspicious fire also devastated the committee's Washington office.

Mr William Webster, director of the FBI, suggested last summer that Muslim fundamentalists had already set up a sufficient apparatus in the US to take reprisals here should America launch a strike in the Middle East. So far there has been little sign of this. But with the heightened concern over the safety of Americans abroad, the Reagan Administration is taking no chances at home either.



Patty Hearst, kidnap victim who joined forces with her kidnapers.

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# Tamils hold Western journalist

Colombo - Separatist Tamil guerrillas have kidnapped a Western journalist, Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said yesterday.

(Vijitha Yapa writes) Police identified her as 24-year-old Velvert Willis, though her nationality is unknown.

She had arrived in Mullaitivu in the eastern province on January 17 and visited St Peter's Church, asking for accommodation. The next day, the priest reported she was missing.

She may have tried to learn for herself about the Tamil guerrillas. The ministry said one of the five main guerrilla groups, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students was responsible for the kidnapping.

On Monday, the Ministry accused Tamil guerrillas of using foreign mercenaries in an exchange of fire outside the army base at the Jaffna Fort on northern Sri Lanka. Residents said two West German journalists, who had come across by boat from India's southern state of Tamil Nadu with the guerrillas. They were taking photographs when the exchange of fire occurred.

# Opera report hits the right note

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Harmony has been restored at the Australian Opera. An economic threat to the company, which produced a bitter rift between management and singers, appears to have passed.

Facing a deficit of \$A2.5 million (£1.2 million) and continuing operating losses, the management decided last year that the Opera would have to go part-time. But an independent inquiry commissioned by the federal arts body, has concluded that it can be saved as a full-time company with the assistance of Canberra and state governments.

Acceptance by these bodies of the formula, which entails a \$A750,000 increase in the annual subsidy of \$A3 million and a one-off payment to erase the deficit, has not been announced officially, but is widely predicted.

The inquiry report, reviewing the history of the company, criticized what it termed "rather eccentric repertoire decisions" in the late 1970s and early 1980s which had been designed exclusively as showcases for Dame Joan Sutherland.

But the report is supportive of both sides in what became a dispute between singers and management over the part-time decision.



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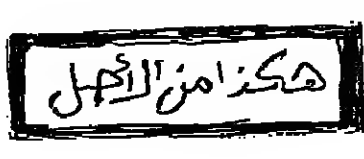
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42 monthly payments of	£82.22	£69.06	£69.06
42 monthly payments of	£82.22	£69.06	£69.06
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OPTIONAL SALES TAXES compared to the cash price (incl. vat) (incl. vat)	£951.78	£1,063.04	£1,063.04
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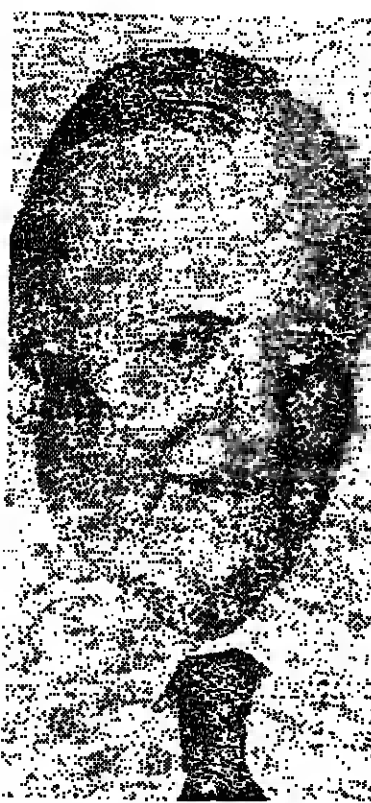




THE ARTS

On Sunday Channel 4 begins a new series on music in western society, *Man and Music*: this major project is introduced by Sir Denis Forman, chairman of Granada and instigator of the programmes

Nine centuries' overview of creative influences



Sir Denis Forman: no intention of hating about in archaeological gloom

History and historians have traditionally given the art of music a pretty scummy deal. Political historians from Gibbon and Macaulay to the present day have had little time for any of the arts, but even when the social view of history began to prevail, historians found that literature and the visual arts were well designed to illustrate and bring alive the life of the serf, the industrial worker, the landed gentry and so on, but music not.

The history of music itself was to be found in a separate compartment and was mainly concerned with the evolution of the forms and mechanics of music - polyphony, the development of counterpoint, how sonata form was perfected, equal temperament, what the valve horn did for Wagner, and so on. None of this information was related to the circumstances of war, peace, or the demands of the religious or lay hierarchy which ruled the lives of those who played the music, paid for the music, and listened to it. There was also a second distinct form of musical history, which examined the lives of composers in detail, with much foreground material covering such items as their diseases and emotional problems, but seldom placing their lives in a wider social context.

Thus there was no ready answer to the broad question of how the astonishing achievements of Euro-

pean music over the centuries came about. What had motivated its composers, performers and audiences? Why did it move from the church into the courts of kings and noblemen, and thence into the concert halls, and finally into the home? How much had the course of European music been influenced by religious dogma? By its value in promoting good public relations for the court? By market forces?

What was required, as it seemed to me some ten years ago, appeared to be an overview of music in relation to the social, political and economic factors that influenced its course over nine centuries.

As the resolution to develop a social history of music strengthened, professional help arrived in the form of Stanley Sadie, at that time actively engaged in putting the finishing touches to his great new edition of *Grove's Dictionary of Music*. Together we defined the terms of reference. We decided, unfashionably, to confine our history to the European mainstream. We would, of course, take account of the influence of music from other continents, but we would not hunt about in the archaeological gloom of the Greek modes or extend our enquiries into the more truly anthropological territory of nose-flutes in Polynesia.

Next, the salient viewpoints on the long road from the twelfth century to

the present day were mapped. The music of significance was identified, the relative importance of each period and each country was carefully assessed. The history was to be presented in three ways: in book form (now to be published by Macmillans in nine volumes), in sound only - as records or cassettes with adequate but not extensive supporting literature - and finally in the form of video cassettes, approximately one hundred in number and each of one hour's duration.

The final video library would end up on the shelf in chronological order but the first presentation of the programmes on television would not. Here they would appear in clutches of from four to six grouped around a theme. The first four, for instance, will reflect the changing relationship between the princely patrons and the court composers, using as examples *Monteverdi in Mantua*, *Composers at the Court of Louis Quatorze*, *Haydn at Esterhazy* and *Liszt in Weimar*.

Tony Cash, the overall producer, began shooting in 1984 and the pilot films for the video series reached the cutting room later that year. Although the concept of *Man and Music* is certainly not small-scale, it would be a mistake to promote the expectation that these first four films will be grand productions. By turning our backs on costume drama and by sticking to a purely documentary approach, we

have three, and only three, visual ingredients at our command - the towns, palaces and rooms in which the music was originally performed, contemporary pictures and visual material, and (most important) actual performances.

Here we clearly have an obligation to reproduce the music as nearly as possible with the original sound, which limits our choice of artists but fortunately not too stringently, for the recent revival of interest in ancient instruments has attracted many musicians and performers of the first rank.

The appeal, we hope, in the video series does not lie in a fresh approach to familiar territory and in the interest of seeing and hearing music performed as nearly as possible in the manner of its original presentation. Thus we hear and see Monteverdi's *Vespers* performed in the great church of Santa Andrea in Mantua; where they were first heard nearly three hundred years ago, and a piano sonata played in the room at Esterhazy where Haydn's piano stood and on an instrument as near as possible to the original.

I hope the first four films will leave the viewer with an appetite for a further 96. We are already at work on the next 20 and it is our ambition, if Saint Cecilia smiles, to reach the century before the second decade is out.



Guy de Mey as Orfeo on the first programme, Monteverdi at Mantua

Concerts

Endellion Quartet

St John's/Radio 3  
The Endellion Quartet belongs to a rising generation of performers for whom Britten is an historical rather than a contemporary figure. As the influence of performances by Britten himself and his close circle begins to recede we can, I think, expect new approaches and unexpected nuances increasingly to emerge.

It was refreshing, then, to find the Endellion - at a decade's distance - offering a cooler, but no less revealing, appraisal. They still found plenty of vitality in the "Ostinato" and the neo-Shostakovich "Burlesque", and the liberally applied "other-worldly" effects - the eerie glissandi and unnerving chords of harmonics - were superbly calculated.

But the overriding impression was one of unhurried eloquence and emotional restraint, particularly in the "Solo" (where Andrew Watkinson traversed the stratospheric violin writing with exquisite tone and infallible intonation) and the final passacaglia. The latter was unfolded, from the studied naivety of its initial

Balls and Chains

Lyric Studio, Hammersmith  
Three characters can provide three duologues between them but two will only produce one. To sidestep this limiting fact of mathematics, and to keep audiences alert, it is in the nature of the two-person play to perform games of identity. The characters put themselves forward as other selves, imaginary selves, past selves, hidden and otherwise unwelcome selves; and all this helps us to think we have had a good play for our money.

Howard Lester and Andrew Ally made their previous two-man play, *The Go-Go Boys*, a hit on both sides of the Atlantic. After that clever demonstration of what men have felt for men, it is logical to write another in which men show what they feel for women. Again it is funny, at

Theatre

moments, sharply observed, usually at those same moments, and cleverest in parodies. But the two titles reveal more than the difference in theme. Women are a burden, heterosexual love is feared. Marriage is not much cop either.  
Ally and Lester write, direct and perform their own material. Helen Turner, however, provides the set, a stage stripped of all furniture but a sagging armchair and the television, against a wall where suggestions of past and future furnishings are scrawled in black and white.  
The room belongs to Harry, first seen slumped on one of the bits of furniture staring dully through swimming-goggles at the other. Once the room belonged to him and Miriam. Needless to say, something has gone wrong. Nor are matters right with Mark's marriage, although running away from the altar as the bride enters the church could be seen as saving a

marriage, from ever happening. Cut into the present state of affairs are incidents from the shared childhood that point towards the present impasse. The actors' teamwork as they go back to boasting adolescents and even scowling infants is ingenious and the different ages subtly varied. Most impressive of all is the nightmare that draws in events from the first half and mixes them up with red-hot spectacles, duels and snatches from *Brief Encounter*.  
But a fatal weakness of the enterprise is the character of Mark; his dimly gay hankerings seem improbably naive, even for the Midlands town where these events are supposed to occur. Watching the two performers together, plump and sardonic against neat and nervous, is always interesting. But I came too long for a glimpse of Miriam, or Mark's Mum, or even the open-mouthed vicar at the wedding.  
Jeremy Kingston

Philharmonia/Jochum

Festival Hall  
We critics - with every justification - often take orchestras or rather the powers that control them, to task for unadventurous programmes. And indeed nobody could claim that the two works Eugen Jochum conducted with the Philharmonia Orchestra here were novel choices. Yet I have to admit that I would still be happy if my final moments were accompanied by Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony or the Seventh Symphony of Beethoven.

Jochum, standing in for the indisposed Lorin Maazel, remains a marvel, an individualist who is still able to shed

new light on these scores. In the Mozart, I was at first afraid that we were in for a staid performance such as one might expect from most octogenarians, for the response to the opening assertion of the tonic seemed positively sluggish. But what followed was a movement filled with a sense of space, with Jochum paying meticulous attention to details such as the smallest grace-notes or the balance of the bassoons in the second subject.  
The slow movement was similarly relaxed, its contrasts of colour carefully illuminated while the Philharmonia's strings phrased with impressive unanimity and conviction. Every gesture here seemed carefully measured, yet the sense of momentum remained unim-

Local Murder

Playhouse, Oxford  
We live simultaneously in the Nuclear Age and the Soap Age; the former reminds us that humanity may be cancelled at short notice, the latter persuades us that we can always tune in next week - that there will be a next week. We do not have to be misanthropes to find this implicit faith in continuity depressing. Life goes on, it seems to say. And on.  
Drama, on the other hand, demands death, and Peter Whalley, the stalwart *Coronation Street* script-writer who wrote his first stage play two years ago, gives us three: one (the crime of the title) occurs offstage, before the action begins; the second, also offstage,

provides a neat if rather cheap *coup de theatre* at the start of Act II; the third, onstage, attempts to resolve at least some of the moral obligations at the climax of the piece.  
The setting, designed by Elroy Ashmore, is the "lounge" of a semi in a small northern town - swede-coloured furniture, interesting patterned wallpaper, a bar in the corner, a Sacred Heart on the wall, Avon ephraim at the front door - where the lady of house (Carolyn Jones, formerly Sharon Metcalfe in *Crossroads*) is shrugging off the advances of her best friend's husband (William Gaunt, the father in *No Place Like Home*).  
In any other afternoon, we gather, she would succumb as usual, but today her mind is preoccupied with the police's

Television

Cinderella's charm

If longevity was anything to go by, which in fairy-tales it is not, Cinderella would long ago have crumbled into dust. But last night's *Arena* (BBC 2) demonstrated how the poor little thing has consistently survived midnight's fatal bell, if only eventually to enter the Disney pantheon. It is perhaps part of her self-effacing charm, however, that she is identified chiefly through her various appearances - the slipper, the pumpkin, and of course the Ugly Sisters who represent a tradition even longer than the darling girl herself.  
She does of course go back a very long way - even as Marina Warner suggested, to the eighth century - although she has for the most part been able to adapt herself to any conjuncture so that her dainty footprints are to be found in a variety of stories and fantasies. The "fairy-tale" itself is so powerful a force that it can bend reality into its own shape, and the legend of Cinderella has been used as an index of social "mobility" no less than as an agent for the magical transformations of fiction or drama.  
She is not the only one - there are any number of giants, and witches peering over our

shoulders - but she is one of the most potent. Marina Warner located the sources of that power in a variety of places: Cinderella as the representative of "dust" or "dirt" (that which always remains), as an animalistic fable, as an emblem of asexual or pre-sexual femaleness, even as a representative of the theories of Bruno Bettelheim.  
She also probed the nature of the original fairy-story, suggesting that at its core there lurked the father's incestuous longings for the child. She (Warner, not Cinderella) was perhaps a little too serious about these "meanings", rather in the manner of George Cruickshank who adapted fairy-stories to inculcate the lessons of temperance, but the multitude of examples she adduced was enough to withstand her articulate assault.  
As a result this was an entertaining and instructive programme with the proviso that one does not necessarily understand something by invoking its origins. What the documentary did suggest, also, was the inexhaustible and endless process of telling stories through which we enter the world.  
Peter Ackroyd

Advertisement for the opera *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, featuring the vocalists John Tomlinson and Mirella Freni. The ad includes contact information for the Royal Opera House and ticket prices.

Advertisement for Steinway pianos. It features a photograph of a Steinway piano and text describing the quality and variety of their instruments. Contact information for Steinway Hall in London is provided.

Stephen Pettitt

The British film industry, that most fragile of creatures, seems once more to be slipping into decline. Goldcrest are learning caution, having had their fingers burnt on expensive productions like *Revolution* and *Absolute Beginners*, while, for the moment at least, Thorn-EMI have withdrawn from film production, a decision which seems all the more regrettable in the light of *Dreamchild*, which opens at the Curzon in London on Friday. The story of Alice Liddell, the child who was the inspiration for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Dreamchild* transports us, via nightmarish recreations of Wonderland itself, back from the Lewis Carroll Centenary Celebrations in the New York of the 1930s to Victorian Oxford, and is one of the most intelligent and enjoyable of recent British films.

Gavin Millar (right) was attracted to the idea of directing *Dreamchild*, which opens in London on Friday, by its 'weird originality': interview by Simon Banner

Intriguing exercise in style

think they'd be right out of court. I reckon that any suggestion in his own mind that that sort of thing was even possible would have been ruthlessly suppressed as the work of the devil.  
What Potter has sought to explore more particularly is Alice Liddell's own comprehension of Dodgson's character. "He turned all that passion and emotion into his books, and what she finally grasps is that, whatever the source of that love, it had been expressed in a beautiful manner." Helping her to come to this realization are waking dreams populated by extremely feral versions of the Wonderland characters created by the former Muppet-man Jim Henson. "We thought that the best models were the Tenniel illustrations, so we started from there, making them as Teniel-like as was necessary to remind people of the source, but as fierce as we felt an old lady's nightmares would have made them. We were certain we didn't want them to be appealingly cute, Disney characters." The March Hare, for example, has come out with blood on his neck to suggest it is the mating season.



The creatures were animated by people - very much in the plural. In effect this left Millar directing out just three characters at the Mad Hatter's tea-party but 18. "There were so many separately functioning bits of bodies and faces: eyebrows, lips and so on. All that had to be choreographed. It was quite hard going because we only had two weeks in which to shoot the fantasy sequences."  
At a cost of £2.9m, *Dreamchild* represents an impressive transformation of money into light, although the figure is still relatively high for a British production and means the film needs to find an audience beyond the domestic one, and beyond the art house too. Just as well then that in the all-important American market it is proving a surprise success, helped along by critical enthusiasm and whispers of possible Oscar nominations. "It has been described as a fairy-tale for grown-ups of all ages, which makes it sound rather like *The Company of Wolves*, though I believe that was sold rather oddly, as if it were some kind of sexual fantasy. There was a fear on our parts that someone

Martin Cropper

might get hold of *Dreamchild* as a pedophile's delight and push that angle. Fortunately that hasn't happened."  
The 47-year-old Millar has been making films, mostly for the BBC, for a good twenty years. Before that there was childhood in Clydebank, service with the RAF, and study at the Royal College of Art, where he played Stefano opposite Melvyn Bragg in a "justly neglected" version of *The Tempest*. Between 1976 and 1980 he produced, directed and presented the BBC series *Arena Cinema*, before deciding to concentrate again on directing. His first full-length film was *Secrets*, made for David Putnam's *First Love* series and given a cinema release in the United States.

Millar remains sceptical about what the Press likes to call the British film revival. "The fact is that at no time has the British film industry been able to survive on its own. It's always needed either foreign money or foreign distribution to make it viable, so we're never going to be in a very comfortable position, and at the moment we seem to be hanging on by the skin of our teeth."  
With the success of *Dreamchild* behind him, Millar looks set to experience the relative comfort of American film-making for a while. Within the next month he expects to get the go-ahead on *The Silent Man*, the story of a black tennis player from Soweto, a script offered him by 20th-Century Fox. Although he insists that he is not going to turn his back on television, the cinema is obviously an attractive prospect. "As a television director you are always bidding for the audience's attention. In the cinema the image dominates, so you can get away with much more. It's possible to be more leisurely and contemplative in the cinema. You can stretch, tease and thin an image, to win an inch of itself as it were, which is something you can't afford to do on television."

Jazz

Etheridge/Eyre/Katz/McKenna

Pied Bull  
This, the first public performance by a prodigious group of talents, and the start of a residency for them at this Islington pub, was an event of notable promise. The virtuoso guitarist John Etheridge has maintained a low profile since his spell in the late 1970s with Soft Machine and subsequently Stéphane Grappelli's band, while, two veteran session players, the drummer Ted McKenna and the keyboardist Tommy Eyre, both at one time members of the Sensational Alex Harvey Band, have more recently found painful employment in the bands of such diverse performers as Michael Scoblenker and Wham! respectively. Even the portly Dill Katz, perhaps best known for his bass-playing with Barbara Thompson, has tried his hand briefly in the Wham! band.  
The application by four such versatile players to the aim of rehearsing and presenting a set of jazz favourites, produced and interesting results, not least in the choice of material, which ranged from a guitar-heavy jazz-rock interpretation of Weather Report's "Mr. Gone" to the late night swing of Thelonus Monk's "Round Midnight", an

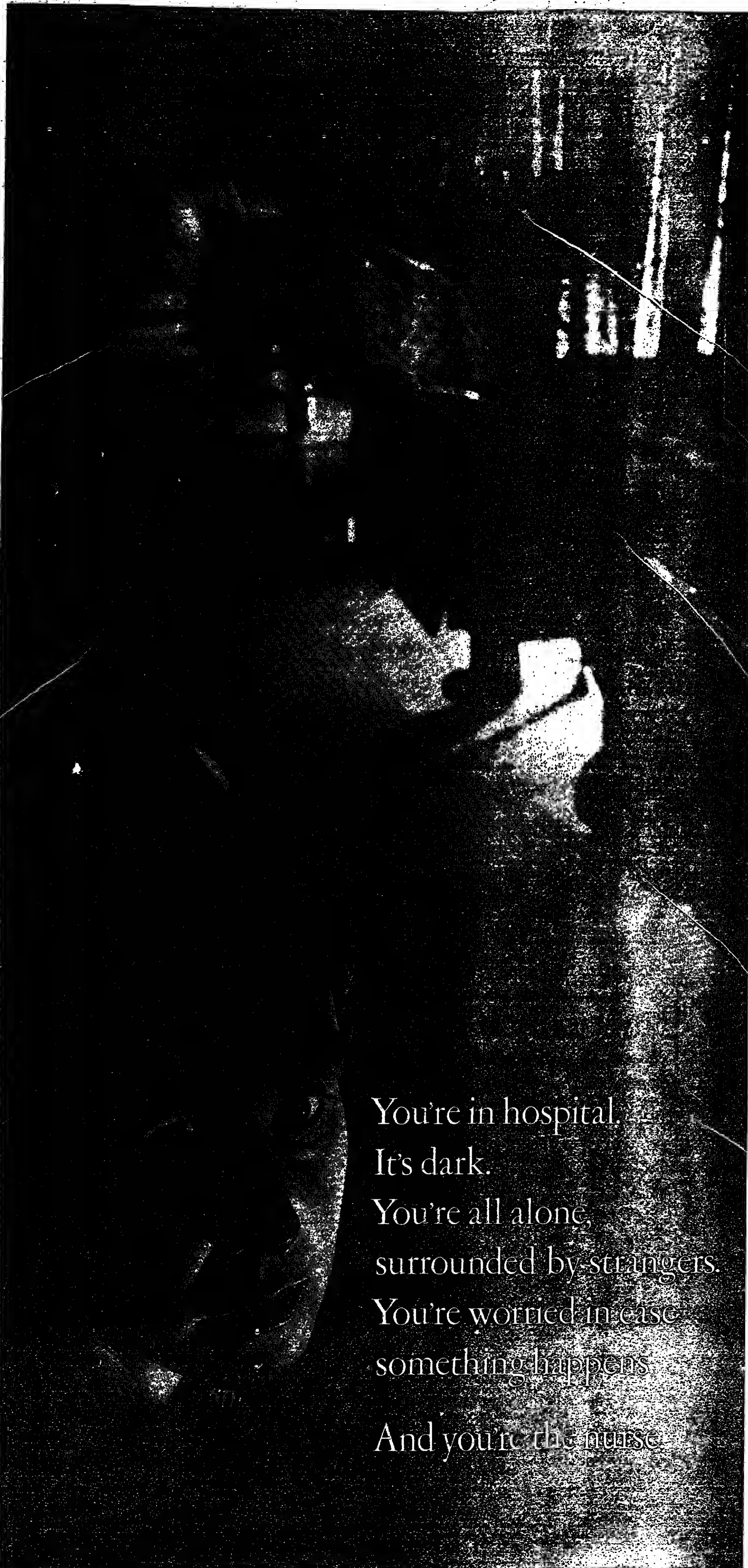
Peter Ackroyd

arrangement more faithful to the Red Garland/John Coltrane original than many contemporary versions.  
The stabbing piano chords of another Monk composition, "Criss-Cross" and the swift, nimble keyboard constructions in Brubeck's "Blue Rondo à la Turk" found Eyre in command, though the nods and soubits made to indicate where changes were about to come failed to prevent the latter song from ending in a cheerful first-night shambles.  
Etheridge played with superlative grace throughout, his best solos invariably offered in profile with his fret-board, in Tommy Eyre's tradition, averted from the audience's gaze. I was John Scofield, numbers, a funky "Who's Who" and "Looks Like Meringue", and Mike Brecker's "Four Chords", found Etheridge's rangy figure hunched over the guitar as successions of quivering tremolo-swept notes climbed in steps of increasing intensity.  
The only original composition, Eyre's "Blue Sunshine Samba", boasted a haunting melody and an invigoratingly swift Latin-style denouement, and these four stay together and work up more material of this calibre. The Pied Bull on Mondays may never be the same again.  
David Sinclair

Advertisement for the Royal Opera House production of  *Faust*. It features a portrait of Stuart Burrows and lists the cast members: Charles Gounod, Samuel Ramey, Nelly Miricioiu, and Michele Placson. Dates and ticket information are also provided.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.





You're in hospital.  
 It's dark.  
 You're all alone,  
 surrounded by strangers.  
 You're worried in case  
 something happens.  
 And you're the nurse.

A student nurse to be more precise. Untrained and unqualified, but still expected to deal with any emergencies that might crop up during the night.

It's not a particularly comforting thought if you happen to be one of her patients.

Although this isn't a new phenomenon, the situation is getting worse. Thanks largely to recent changes in the way British hospitals are being run.

The Griffiths Report, published in 1983, was aimed at greater efficiency within the National Health Service.

One of its recommendations was that more hospitals should be run by people with commercial management experience, who had more regard for cost efficiency. In principle it seemed a sensible idea. In practice there have been serious consequences.

**NURSING SINCE GRIFFITHS**

The most serious is that nursing in many hospitals is now under the control of new general managers who have no previous experience of nursing. As a result they tend to view nurses in terms of cost rather than care.

Hence, the lonely student nurse on night shift.

She's cheaper by the hour than a qualified nurse and it doesn't seem unreasonable to employ fewer nurses at night than during the day.

Unfortunately, if you're the patient, you're no less likely to be ill at night than you are during the day.

**AN AWKWARD COMPROMISE**

So you can see why we're worried. Nurses are being forced to compromise their professional, caring standards in the interests of cost effective management, and though we're all in favour of greater efficiency, we'd rather it wasn't at our patients' expense.

That's why we want to see a director of nursing appointed in every health unit in Britain before the situation gets even worse.

Someone with the power and the nursing experience to make health care more efficient. Whilst the administrators concentrate on making it more cost-effective. Then patients can benefit from the best of both worlds instead of suffering the end results of an awkward compromise.

If you agree, please add your name to our petition by sending us the coupon.

And, if you're as worried as we are, please write to your Member of Parliament now (the address is the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA).

	I agree. Nursing should be run by nurses.
	Name _____ Address _____ _____
Please send to the Royal College of Nursing Petition, 20 Cavendish Sq., London W1M 0AB.	
<b>WE CARE FOR NURSES,                  SO THEY CAN CARE FOR YOU.</b>	



Presidential elections take place in the Philippines next month. Will the authoritarian rule of Marcos be replaced?

# Manila bites the bullet

The Foreign Office is discreetly anxious about it, but feels impotent. It is not "whitewash", and the anguish in Whitehall is trivial by comparison with the mighty apprehension in Washington.

Why should the fortunes of a country strung out on the Pacific rim, with no serious territorial designs on its neighbours, make-do and mend army and a traditionally easy-going people, cocoon the political and military strategists of the West?

Yet the fate of the Philippines, whose 24 million voters go to the polls on February 7, is viewed as a matter of critical concern, because this tropical archipelago is the last big prize over which the rival ideologies of the 20th century are still fighting.

Everywhere else in the newly-industrialized countries of Asia, the political argument has been settled. Marx or mammon has won. In the countries that repudiated communism, armed rebellion has been beaten militarily and by the more compelling argument of full bellies and consumer goods. Only in the Philippines is there a growing Communist insurgency. And this is the third - is proving the most difficult to halt. What to do about it is the dominant topic in the current presidential election.

President Ferdinand Marcos, seeking a six-year extension of his 20-year rule, argues that his opposition rival Mrs Corason Aquino is "too weak" to take on



Pressure group: a combat unit of the Communist New People's Army in a Philippine village

cent of the popular vote. How this will be achieved is another matter. Filipino elections are notoriously "irregular", ballot boxes sometimes find their way to the bottom of the sea; the votes of 1,572 people in Manila were this week traced to the thumb-print of one man.

The Americans, whose every sign of interest in their former colony is regarded as "meddling", are sending a high-ranking team of observers in an effort to ensure that the poll is as clean and fair as possible.

The Communists have denounced the election as a farce and are calling on their cadres to organize a boycott. And the killing goes on. The "Armed City of Partisans" have orders to step up operations, and there will be more attacks on the armed forces and municipal buildings.

Philippines sometimes complain, with some justice, that outsiders are told little and care less about the "forgotten war" in their country; a conflict that costs many more lives than the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

They say this election is the last chance for peaceful change in the Philippines.

Paul Routledge

## Twin troubles of insurgents and inflation

Six months ago, Filipino generals boasted that the armed forces could inflict military defeat on the Communist New People's Army "within a year or 18 months."

Rather less is heard of that bullish line these days. If anything, the danger posed by the 20,000 insurgents in the hills and the assassination "sparrow units" in the cities is played up by President Marcos in his speeches, to justify the need for a six-year extension of his authoritarian rule.

American intelligence sources suggest that as many as one in five of the country's 40,000 villages have been "penetrated and politicized", and the NPA itself is expanding at the rate of 20 per cent a year. The growth of "red fighters" is constrained more by a lack of weapons than any shortage of volunteers, but their raids and ambushes grow increasingly daring.

The outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, which is directing the insurrection, was founded in a small village in central Luzon on Boxing Day, 1968, by 10 young Maoist dissidents of the old PKP, mainly middle-class intellectuals and students.

The insurgents now claim that they will reach a military stalemate with the

200,000-strong armed forces of the Philippines by 1990.

Jose E. Romero, an academic, argues: "The Philippine insurgency is not a passing phenomenon. With its present armed strength and as many as one million supporters in nearly all provinces, the left feels it is well on its way to an eventual takeover". In soliciting support, he adds, the NPA trades heavily on discontent with "the perceived injustice and tyranny of the Marcos government". The NPA metes out summary "justice" against local officials said to exploit the peasantry.

There are also random killings of suspected guerrillas by armed members of the 65,000-strong Civilian Home Defence Force. These killings, "salvagings" in the grisly jargon of this dirty war, have also created deep resentment in areas like the sugar island of Negros.

CHDF irregulars there are held responsible for the Escalante massacre last September, when 27 demonstrators were mown down by automatic rifles.

To combat these abuses, President Marcos has promised a "sweeping revamp" of the armed forces. Disciplinary barracks have been set up, and a top-level purge of over-age desk-bound generals is said to be on the way.

The economy of the Philippines is often likened to a sleeping giant. It is now showing signs of stirring. But whether it is awakening, or simply turning in its sleep, is too soon to tell.

Estimates for 1985 suggest that the economy contracted by a further 3.5 per cent, following a decline the previous year of 5.5 per cent, triggered by the crisis of confidence after the assassination of Benigno Aquino. Capital poured out of the country.

For this year, forecasters are predicting a "soft recovery" with economic growth of perhaps 1 per cent. Much of that growth will come from increased consumer spending - an election always sets the hills ringing - but agriculture is also doing reasonably well. The manufacturing sector is still in the doldrums, with companies unwilling to invest because of political uncertainty.

Unemployment is officially put at 7 per cent, though most observers estimate that it is nearer 15 per cent, with another 40 per cent under-employed. Every road intersection in Manila teems with jobless youths selling sweets and cigarettes.

However, the government claims success in lowering the inflation rate from 45 per cent in January, 1985, to 6.9

per cent and interest rates are down to about 12 per cent from 37 per cent.

This comforting picture may be short-lived, if the forthcoming election is widely perceived to have been dishonest. Businessmen critical to the government fear "there will be no stopping capital flight".

Even if the poll is fair, inflation will be fuelled by the extra money sloshing around in the system.

The Philippines is also one of the world's chronic debtors. Officially, overseas debt stands at US\$25.5 billion (about £17.7 billion). The opposition says the figure is at least \$30 billion. Either way, the government cannot pay the IMF, which is imposing tough terms on President Marcos for its massive standby loans, in return for a review of the government's economic adjustment programme in Manila shortly after the election, and local observers say this review "assumes there will be no change in government".

For her part, Mrs Aquino has vowed that, if elected, she will demand a renegotiation of the huge foreign debt.

"Our economy cannot possibly endure, nor our people long accept, a situation where nearly half our export earnings go to interest payments alone", she insists.

### THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



President Ferdinand E. Marcos was born in 1917 in a small town in Ilocos Norte, the conservative northern province of Luzon, the eldest son of a schoolmaster-politician and a landowner's daughter.

He proved an excellent scholar in his youth, and an even better shot, carrying off the national small-bore rifle championship. But his characteristic Filipino interest in guns landed the 18-year-old Ferdinand in jail on a charge of murdering a politician who defeated his father in a congressional election.

While behind bars, he qualified as a lawyer and successfully acquitted himself in the Supreme Court. Called up to the armed services three weeks before Pearl Harbour, he had a distinguished war record, winning 32 medals of which he is inordinately proud. His official biography says he survived a "suicidal attack" against the enemy.

When his country won independence from the United States in 1946, his thoughts turned to politics. He was elected congressman for his home province in 1949 at the age of 32, specializing in economic policy, "the protection and extension of civil rights, and the enhancement of professional ethics in politics".

Elevation to the Senate followed, and though a Liberal, he was chosen president of that august body which was controlled by the rival Nacionalistas. It came as no surprise when he "crossed the floor" and stood as Nacionalista candidate for the presidency in 1965, thrashing the incumbent Macapagal.

His first term was relatively calm, and he became the first president to secure re-election in 1969.

Arturo Tolentino, Marcos's vice-presidential running-mate, is now 75 and is long qualified as "the ancient terrible of the ruling KBL Party. He has argued on the hustings that it is perhaps time for 68-year-old President Marcos to retire. "Politics is a game of reality". In this case, presumably, to make way for an older man.



Mrs Corason Aquino, the 52-year-old opposition presidential candidate, is a shy, devout widow, a political novice who has never before run for public office, but she was the only candidate behind whom the fragmented, squabbling Filipino opposition could hope to unite and "from behind the widow's weeds is emerging a personality as tough as Marcos", in the words of an American banker.

Born into the comfortable life of the landowning aristocracy, and educated at Catholic convent schools and in the United States, her whirlwind romance and marriage to Benigno Aquino, when she was 21, was the match of the year between two business dynasties. It was a Hollywood story that turned sour when the husband, by then leader of the opposition to President Marcos, was jailed in 1972. She became a "martial law widow" for eight years, before her beloved "Ninoy" - still under sentence of death - was permitted to leave the country for a heart by-pass operation in the United States. The next three years were "the happiest of my life", she recalls.

On August 21, 1983, Benigno Aquino returned from political exile only to die from an assassin's bullet on the tarmac at Manila airport. Her many other Filipino friends, Mrs Aquino believed the hand of Marcos, and his cronies in the military were behind the murder, although a court recently acquitted armed forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver and his men of the crime.

Salvador Laurel, a 57-year-old former senator, was the original choice for presidential candidate in the United States, the largest opposition political grouping in the Filipino parliament.

Although the lawyer son of a distinguished political family that numbered a former President, a Speaker of the country's congress and an ambassador, he did not seek a political career until he was almost 40, when he became a Nacionalista senator in 1967.

When the interim parliament was set up towards the end of martial law in 1978, he was elected an MP, but he did not follow President Marcos into the "breakaway" KBL (New Society) party and has since distanced himself from the politics of that era.

### MARCOS YEARS

Nov 9 1965: Senator Ferdinand E. Marcos elected President.

March 27 1968: Communist New People's Army starts protracted war against government.

Jan 1970: Students march on Malacanang Palace; six killed.

Sept 22 1972: Marcos imposes "humane" martial law to combat student unrest and Communist insurgency. Thousands arrested, including Senator Benigno Aquino.

Jan 17 1973: New constitution gives Marcos unlimited powers during martial law.

April 7 1978: Marcos's New Society party sweeps polls for interim parliament - opposition charges widespread rigging.

Jan 16 1981: Martial law lifted. June 16 1981: Marcos retains presidency with 88 per cent of votes.

Aug 21 1983: Benigno Aquino murdered at Manila airport on return from exile in United States.

May 14 1984: Ruling KBL (New Society) party wins 2-1 majority in parliamentary election. Poll judged to be fairest for years, despite charges of rigging and intimidation on both sides.

Nov 4 1985: Marcos calls snap election 18 months before the 1986 presidential election.

Dec 20 1985: Supreme Court rules 7-5 in favour of poll despite opposition charges that it is unconstitutional. 4,500 soldiers, communist rebels and civilians killed in insurgency (military estimates) during the year.

Feb 7 1986: Polling day in the Philippines. Marcos seeks six-year extension of two decades rule.



The Philippines is a widely-scattered archipelago of 7,107 islands (fewer than 2,000 are inhabited) lying just north of the Equator and occupying a strategic position on the Pacific rim, east of the South China Sea.

It accommodates the biggest American air and sea bases outside the continent of North America and 50 "military flying-time" from Soviet forces at Rahn Bay in Vietnam.

The country was a Spanish colony from 1565 until 1898, and an American colony from that date to 1946, giving rise to the "Filipino" that the English problem derive from being "300 years in the oven" and "50 years in Hollywood".

Its 54 million people, mostly of Malay origin, speak mainly Tagalog, among themselves but use English for business. Eighty per cent profess Roman Catholicism - (making it the only Christian country in Asia) and 70 per cent are engaged in agriculture, providing principal exports of sugar, coconut oil, copper, concentrate and lumber. There are an increasing number of manufacturing industries.

# How long before the milkround turns sour?

There's one thing a spell at University always guarantees. Plenty of 'milkround' visits from company executives.

Each and every one of them has well-paid jobs to offer.

But before signing on the dotted line, think very carefully.

Will the promises turn out to be empty? Will the job suit your particular abilities and skills?

These are not the sort of questions you can answer in 3 minutes. So why not take 3 years to decide your future - as an Army Officer?

On completion of your training at Sandhurst you will be commissioned as a Lieutenant earning £9,679.

Naturally you will learn how to command and care for a group of bright young soldiers and to handle our sophisticated weapons and equipment.

And if you are posted abroad at short

notice to lead soldiers in unfamiliar surroundings you'd have to cope.

No wonder many leading industrialists regard an Army Commission as the best management training a young man or woman can have.

Whether you make the Army your long-term career or leave earlier is up to you.

Either way it promises not to sour your future. Quite the opposite in fact.

And you'll gain unrivalled executive training at our expense.

So if you need a little more time to decide, see your Careers Staff and pick up an Introduction Form.

Through this we will arrange for a Liaison Officer to see you at your University, Polytechnic, or College of Higher Education.

**Army Officer**

## How to hit it rich and stay happy ever after

Would winning a fortune make your life or break it? An American bricklayer is about to find out

Mr Pasquale Consalvo, 59, who last Saturday scooped the largest ever win in New York's state lottery, told a news conference on Monday that \$30 million (just over £20 million) was too much for any one person. If the money made him unhappy, he said, he would give it back.

Mr Consalvo need not worry. The chances of his life being made a misery by his new-found wealth are almost as slim (though out odds) as the 6.1 million-to-one odds which he beat to take a jackpot that had remained unclaimed through six previous draws.

In Britain, of course, news of big money winners is inevitably linked with recollections of Vivien "Spend, spend, spend" Nicholson who blew the £152,319 she and her second husband, Keith, won on the pools in September 1961. The money went on drink (she once drank two bottles of Drambuie in a single night), American cars, a luxury bungalow called the Ponderosa, holidays, parties, clothes and racehorses.

Five years later, Keith was killed when one of the new cars plunged off the road and Vivien was soon back in a small terraced house without much money. She married three more times and her last husband died of an overdose.

The story made her the best known of any of Britain's big winners, but Vivien Nicholson is famous precisely because she was unusual. Most big winners live happily, and drably, ever after.



Winner: Pasquale Consalvo and his wife Angelina

It is almost unheard of for big winners to give it all away though a pool winning priest, Father James Curran, did donate almost all his £200,000 to charity in the early 1970s. British pools companies have no records of ever getting the money back from a lucky winner who thought it was all too much.

Mr Consalvo's win is not as big as it seems

Mr Consalvo's suppositions about what he might do with the money are as little to be relied upon as most of the doubtful predictions uttered by awestruck folk who have just hit it rich. For a start he is not just one person. His news conference was attended by his wife, their three children, their three grandchildren and other family members and friends. He will not have sole management of his fortune, any more than he was able to fulfil his desire to go to work as usual on the day he made his winning.

That was frustrated when the family tore up his work clothes. "I enjoy working", Mr Consalvo explained apologetically. It is not an uncommon

reaction. When Mr David Henshaw of Hitchley won £301,000 from Littlewoods last year he took the company to the cleaners - the dry cleaning shop he had been struggling to make a success of for the last 12 months. His cheque was presented at the premises at 2.30pm, and by three o'clock he had reopened for business.

Mr Consalvo expects to buy a new car. That is not uncommon either. Mr Dennis Turner, a Michellin worker in Stoke who won £397,000 last year, moved house and bought a new car. The car is a Mini.

More ostentatious self-indulgence is quite uncommon. Mr George Dawes, whose wife Elaine netted £756,000 in January 1981, has been treated to a string of racehorses and a stable at Middleham in Yorkshire. Mr John Williamson, who gathered up \$305,990 in September 1983, has gone to the dogs since, dog racing being his favourite hobby. Mr Mike Vickary (£757,236 won in May 1981) treated himself to an ocean yacht.

Mr Consalvo, again predictably, says vaguely that he will spend his money on his family. Mr Shaun Legge (who got £692,000 last year) proposed marriage to his girlfriend that very day, and The Sun's bingo millionaire lost no time cutting his girlfriend in on his good fortune either.

The New York winner is a bricklayer by trade. In Britain the total sum of his winnings would just about buy him a fast-growing building company such as Bellway (capitalized at £22.3 million), or he could take a controlling stake in something bigger for less.

In fact, looked at from some angles Mr Consalvo's pile does not seem so immense as all that. True, it is always the biggest ever winnings on the British pools (a total of £953,874 10p to Mr David Preston in February 1980) but it is barely a third of

the sum Bob Geldof raised for Africa last year.

It is also substantially less than John Burt Foster, who does seem to be seriously overburdened with money, gave away in a single grant last year (£50 million to the National Gallery).

In fact there is a snag to Mr Consalvo's win. He does not get it all at once, but in 21 annual instalments of \$1.4 million each. Mrs Jean Sainsbury, a public relations consultant who had unexpectedly inherited a fortune, gave more than that to the Royal Opera House last year (£1 million).

Why, at that rate, Mr Consalvo cannot even afford to buy a picture like Mantegna's 'Adoration of the Magi' (£8.1 million) or a country estate like Littlecote, on which Mr Peter de Savary is spending £6 million.

People who have been both

rich and poor, like the wobbly Mr Jeffrey Archer, would have no inhibitions about telling Mr Consalvo which state he is likely to prefer. Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose wealth could only be approximately judged when he came to the stock market, has just increased it by doing just that. If similar fashion, a group of Jaguar car workers found their £625,000 win did not dull their appetite. They followed it up with another £65,000 last year, and one hopes that at least some of the winnings will have been profitably invested in their company's success too.

By the time Mr Consalvo gets his last payment, in 2007, it is just possible that the fall in the value of the dollar and inflation may leave him feeling it is not as much as he would have liked.

Robin Young

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No. 855)

ACROSS

- Zeno (6)
- Prosper (6)
- Shogun (5)
- Crusade (8)
- Time (8)
- Ulmaccous tree (3)
- Jesus's betrayer (5,3)
- Danger colour (3)
- Plea (8)
- Offensively (8)
- One time (4)
- Windy (6)
- Glowing coals (6)

DOWN

- Neck back (4)
- Basques (9)
- Understood (5)
- Domesticated (5)
- Hind part (4)
- Watch (5)
- Hindu class (5)
- Overturn (5)
- Sub out (5)
- Bain (9)
- Silent (4)
- Slightly open (4)
- Sea duck (5)
- Reppung (5)
- Vases (5)
- Desire (4)
- Travelling salesman (4)

SOLUTION TO No. 854

ACROSS: 1 Bellow 2 Camp 3 Edler 4 Expansive 5 Platonic 13 Day 15 Oceanographer 17 Tahr 18 Disclaim 21 December 22 Haven 23 Pile 24 Wimple

DOWN: 3 Erica 3 Ezer 4 Weeping willow 5 Cape 6 Monarch 9 Decree 10 Experiment 12 Oink 14 Talk 16 Ethical 19 April 20 Abbe 22 Ham



WEDNESDAY PAGE

The mellowing of Marilyn

The Women's Room was a novel so explosive that it changed the lives of many of its readers. Now Marilyn French, its author, has produced a stunning analysis of male power. Libby Purves discusses it with her

Even if feminist thought is not your ruling passion, you have probably heard of Marilyn French, because she is the one who says "All men are rapists". In fact, she doesn't say that, never has, a character in her novel The Women's Room said it, after her young daughter had been raped and then sneered at by revolting Chicago policemen with beer-guts and phallic hoisters.

In context, it was a powerful and painful line; but a respectable British newspaper published Marilyn French's picture with a fierce scowl and the shocking one-liner as its caption, and the quote stuck. "There don't seem to be any ethics in dealing with feminists in the Press," she says. "I cannot imagine anyone taking a line from Richard III and quoting that as if Shakespeare had meant to say it himself, can you?"

It comes as something of a relief to me to get the real Ms French disentangled from the characters in that first explosive novel of the sex war. The Women's Room is a prolonged, largely autobiographical, yell of fury at the perversity of the male sex; her bunch of miserable and furious heroines pursue their depressing paths to enlightenment for six hundred agonizing pages.

The novel is drawn as malevolent stick-figures, at best appallingly dull and at worst monstrous. It is not a book which admits the possibility of decent family lives, of generosity between the sexes, or of any comedy whatsoever. After reading it, I felt no inclination to meet Marilyn French.

But that was seven years ago and I suspect that Ms French has mellowed a little. Contrary to her reputation, she does, occasionally smile. She poured tea solicitously in the hotel lounge where we met, and when a noisy male party set down next to us she greeted us with a friendly and infuriatingly male, she merely grimaced and did not snap assertively.

She would not agree that she has softened with the years, stating that while she has never been bitter, she is a "very angry person". But her latest production channels the anger rather more academically. Beyond Power - Women, Men & Morals is an enormous tome about the history and the future of the world, written from a feminist perspective. And it is quite a formidable book.

It deals, first of all, with the growth and origin of patriarchal society - that is, all society we have ever heard of - and with the damage done by the masculine hunter-gatherer principle to the good, nourishing, feminine principle of love and co-operation. It is about the male pursuit of power, leading to "sterile, unsatisfying eminence", versus the scorned female pursuit of "felicity" - pleasure and happiness for the moment.

To support her arguments she turns to political and social history, anthropology, and philosophy in bewildering and dazzling abundance. In her index, Kierkegaard nestles next to the Kikuyu and the King James Bible, and Roosevelt close by Roswitha of Gandersheim. And, of course, Rousseau. Ms French doesn't



Heroine of the sex war: Marilyn French, a formidable woman to argue with

think much of Rousseau as a thinker, either; he was no feminist. She pursues her argument with vivid skill and great clarity, whether praising the Moutri tribe for their fatherhood-ceremonies or lamenting the fall of the bégynages - communities, run by independent, celibate women, 13th-century Belgium.

Fortunately, she does not believe in the rather tiresome "feminization" of language - womyn, herstory, and so on - because she does "not consider that changing a language changes society. It works the other way round", she says. "But these women are clearly having a lotta fun and I wouldn't want to interfere with that."

So no jargon or obfuscation stands between her flow of polemic and the stunned men and women who will read it. Odd and fascinating facts pour from the pages: Aristotle thought that the glance of a menstruating woman would tarnish a mirror; Nazi officials referred to women as "gese"; in confidential memos - one of the few species to pair-bond for life. They all support her central and highly organized thread of argument for a total "feminization" of all political and social systems everywhere.

Only very occasionally does she descend from her style of scholarly dissertation into the sort of poetic-feminist idealism that we recognize as part of the Greenham era.

"Yes, there was a garden, and in it we gathered fruits and vegetables and sang to the moon and played and worked together and watched the children grow... we were bound to

the goddess who was immanent in nature, to the vegetation and the moon, mistress of the animals, who fed us freely - most of the time. Death was terrible, but in it the goddess received us again, and we returned to the process of eternal recurrence, still part of the chain of life.

Most of the time, there is nothing like that, no fantasy of ancient Eden, merely that procession of facts and analysis and stinging little insights into the distasteful nature of masculine domination - distasteful, and non-essential.

I see men all around me, very much trapped and mute

In another flash of rhetoric, she says: "In the Beginning was the Mother"; the Word came later, an abstract, arbitrary, intellectual system which gave men an artificial dominance because their very subjection of woman came to signify power over Nature herself. Hence Aristotle and the mirror; hence the almost superstitious dread of a female priesthood even in the modern church; hence every evil and every alienation.

For one who advocates the pleasure principle, the spontaneous feminine and loving spirit, Marilyn French does not exude much gaiety. And she plays conventional power games with great skill. Although she would deny that they are games; she is most

deadly earnest about her message: "Without it there is no hope".

She is a formidable woman to argue with. Weren't there, I wondered, any benefits accruing to the world from the patriarchal system? Is all our history to be discarded as a mere false start? Has our strife, competition, rivalry, the concentration of power and even war itself brought a few benefits, as the wheel turned?

"We are always told this. That commercial links and inventions and knowledge of other nations come from war, but who is it that these things wouldn't have happened anyway? There is no way we can know how the world would have been without men's domination". But if her demi-paradise of matriarchal society had continued to evolve, would there have been, say, the very aeroplane which flew her to London to publicize her new book?

"There might have been. But what actually happens now? We spend millions doing things like researching into poisons too poisonous even to handle. Not on researching, say, herbs, for healing. Only one sort of Science is worshipped today."

The breadth of background to the book is impressive. I asked whether in her wide reading for it, she had ever come across anything - one single fact, story, custom or theory - which gave her reason to question her whole thesis. Did anything make her doubt her ideas? "No. Nothing ever changed my direction, from the first draft. Everything I discovered merely added to it or made it more complicated and interesting."

She is sorry for men and writes with some feeling about their lot - although her own circle is "homosexual" - "avoiding those people you know will behave unpleasantly and abrade your surfaces, you turn out to mix mainly with women. But most women do that, you know live homosexually."

Men, she says, suffer from patriarchal society too. "I see men all around me, very much trapped and mute; they don't even know what to complain about. They turn grey at a certain age and look as if they'll blow away and often they just do. You see most men are living a lie. Any human being is living a lie when he pretends to be in control, even of himself. I find it ironic that the sex which cannot control its sex organ is the one that considers itself fit to control the world."

Most women who do gain power now only fall prey to the same delusion. She calls them Caryatids - not pillars of society, just ornamental female bearers: "Pseudo-men. Women who have totally accepted the male world". She assumes that they pay the same price - "alienation, loneliness, sterility". Many are forging motherhood.

We had been discussing our own Prime Minister at that point, but the feminist outlook of the UK generally is fraught with other difficulties.

The stumbling-block is men's insistence on being better?

"Your class system. Upper and middle-class women do not want to be associated with working-class women. And besides, there's a kind of vitality and identity in your working classes between men and women. They sort of stick together, more than in the USA."

A nagging association was beginning to trouble me, thinking of her clear, passionate, uncompromising book and listening to her talk about power and working-class vitality and oppression too terrible to have been ignored for so long. She reminded me of someone, and I could not think who. I tried another question: Need all this be called feminism? Why not just humane thought? Enlightened liberalism, pacifism, conservatism - is that elements of all.

But for the first time she raised her voice. "No! That would erode the issue. The basic stumbling-block in the way of a more humane world is men's insistence on being better than women. You cannot slide past that. New lies will only breed, until you change that basic thing. You can't make a socialist revolution on a lie."

And I knew who she reminded me of. George Orwell - an Orwell for 1986 and beyond, although possibly as doomed to failure as he was.

For which, I should add, she is prepared. The book concludes that "if we fail? We fail... there is no final end; there is only the doing well, being what we want to be, doing what we want to do, living in delight. The choice lies between a life lived through and a life lived; between fragmentation and wholeness; between leaving behind us, as generations before have done, a legacy of bitterness, sacrifice and fear, and leaving behind us if nothing more than this, a memory of our own being and doing with pleasure, an image of life our young will want to emulate rather than avoid. The choice lies between servitude and freedom, fragmentation and integration. The choice may be between death and life. There is no choice."

Beyond Power - Women, Men & Morals is published tomorrow by Jonathan Cape (hardback, £15). The Women's Room is published by Sphere (paperback, £2.95).

Suffering from a medical complaint

COMMENT

Mary Brown was convicted that a London teaching hospital was concealing the true facts about her father's death. Even the medical staff had seemed shocked when he died quite suddenly a few days after being admitted for some routine tests.

She had repeatedly written to the hospital asking for more details but the only reply was a series of letters telling her the matter was being looked into. The authorities were clearly afraid that Mary Brown intended to sue. They seemed unable to deal with a simple request for information. After several months she found that she was unable to sleep. She was stricken with guilt that she should have allowed such a thing to happen to her father, and she started to feel quite ill herself.

Each year 10,000 official complaints are lodged about the standard of NHS care. In most cases it is an explanation and apology which is required, not compensation.

But the traditional caring role of the hospital comes to a full stop when a complaint is received. Doctors, advised by their defence societies, become unavailable. Nurses deny that they have seen or been made to do. It is not unusual for a time lag of two years to occur before the complaint is finally dealt with under the hospital's internal procedures.

Mary Brown's case is unusual only because there was a happy ending. After the intervention of a community health council the consultant who had been in charge of her father phoned to say that the complaint had never reached him. He met Mary Brown and told her how terrible he was. He had been hit by her father's death and explained the tests. Such candour on the part of the doctor is extremely rare.

Hospital authorities claim that the long delays when no information is given allow any complaint to be fully investigated. But one suspects that they are also intended to make the patient or relative who is complaining give up in disgust. That sometimes happens, but such calculated procrastination is more likely to increase the bitterness of complainants, and lead them to exaggerate what occurred.

However, there are signs that the National Association of Health Authorities (NAHA) is trying to get to grips with one aspect of the medical complaints problem - the fear among hospital staff that they will be punished if they report cases where they know patients are abused or ill treated.

On Friday NAHA will be publishing new guidance on how health service managers should deal with such complaints. It covers such matters as the abuse of tranquillizers, misuse of seclusion policies, stealing from patients and sexual and physical violence.

A typical case would be the difficult and aggressive psychiatric patient who needs a great deal of care and attention. She spends hours every day "secluded" in the hospital's time-out room - which means in plain English that she's locked away where she can't annoy anyone. She doesn't often have a bath because that is too time-consuming and nursing for the hard pressed staff.

A student nurse, newly assigned to the ward who has been trained to respect the patient's dignity is hurried at the way the patient has been sentenced to solitary confinement rather than treated for her illness. She complains to the ward sister and is sharply told to pipe down if she wants a good ward report. The student complies and is now slier, wiser and a little corrupted.

'Wall of silence' for outsiders

Although problems like this are well known to hospital authorities, there were some objections when NAHA first proposed their guidelines. Some NHS managers feared that establishing a procedure whereby members of staff could report each other would result in a lot of time-consuming complaints motivated by grudges. But the authorities (less than a quarter of the total) who have already established their own guidelines have found that this is not the case.

NAHA's action in dealing with the abuses of patients by staff is laudable, but a more common problem is the wall of silence which meets complainants who do not work in the health service.

Last summer a conference of the Royal College of Physicians tried but failed to find a solution. Sir Anthony Buck, the Tory MP who chaired a parliamentary committee that looked into accountability in health service in the late 1970s, expressed his horror there at how little progress had been made since then.

Ann Kent

Once a Catholic...

Princess Michael of Kent is a Roman Catholic who has been married, divorced and remarried. I am also a Roman Catholic who has been married, divorced and remarried. Last year she received Holy Communion at a Mass in Rome. This Sunday I will not be receiving Holy Communion at my local parish church.

When the rest of the congregation go up to the altar rails, I will, as always, sit tight. My Sunday Mass has been like that for the past five years. The reason Princess Michael can receive Holy Communion and I cannot is that her first marriage was annulled. Mine stands.

I raise the point because each time a sunny-haired princess or newspaper-savvy, well-meaning non-Catholic friends look at me sympathetically and ask "so how come?".

The simple fact is that there are more Catholics like me than like Princess Michael. Whether the rich and famous seek amusement more than the hot polloi or they just make newspaper headlines more often, I don't know. I do know that each time these stories reach the paper friends turn to me and say "well, these you are then". And I say: "Divorced, remarried, and, as a consequence, withdraws from the Sacraments."

I understand why. It's just a little difficult explaining it to non-Catholic friends when the marriage of a Catholic personality hits the headlines. It happened when the marriage of Princess Caroline of Monaco ended and there was talk of an annulment.

The recently published biography of Frank Sinatra by

FIRST PERSON

Christine Brown

his daughter Nancy refers to the annulment of his first marriage. If any of my friends read it, I'll be back to our "so how come" conversation.

I try to make clear to friends who ask that I have no argument against the church's teaching on marriage. To me it still seems very clear cut. If you choose to ignore the teaching on the indissolubility of marriage by divorcing and remarrying you cannot re-receive the Sacrament. You cannot make the choice and kick against it.

The fact remains that each time a celebrity Catholic story crops up I find myself involved in woolly conversations with friends. There is no real harm in them.

The only danger for me would be if I started falling in with their line of thought, which usually goes something like this: "But you didn't do anything wrong. Why should you suffer?" I explain that it was by choosing to remarry that I found myself in this situation.

The inevitable reply to that is "What were you supposed to do. Live like a nun?" I know they mean it kindly but their "logic" is of no help to me. Perhaps these conversations are good for the soul, and at least they only occur now and then. I don't suppose I'll have another for some time. Well until the next newsworthy Catholic has a remarriage problem.

For as long as there have been written recipes for chowders, cooks and scholars on both sides of the Atlantic have debated the origins of the name. Earliest recipes usually turn up in manuscript cookery books. But in the case of what has become a classic of American cooking, it is fitting that the recipe believed to be the oldest should have been published in the Boston Evening Post. On September 23, 1751, the newspaper printed a poem entitled "Directions for making a Chowder".

The most widely accepted explanation for the naming of chowder is that it derives from the French chaudière, a cauldron or cooking pot. And it would have been in just such pots that 17th-century French fishermen cooked the fish stew they lived on when fishing far from home in Newfoundland. Long voyages were made to meet demand in Europe for salt cod, and at sea the men lived on the fish they caught supplemented by onions, salt pork and ship's biscuits.

The 1763 edition of the English writer Hannah Glasse's The Art of Cookery gives a layered recipe with wine and spices she called "chowder, a sea dish".

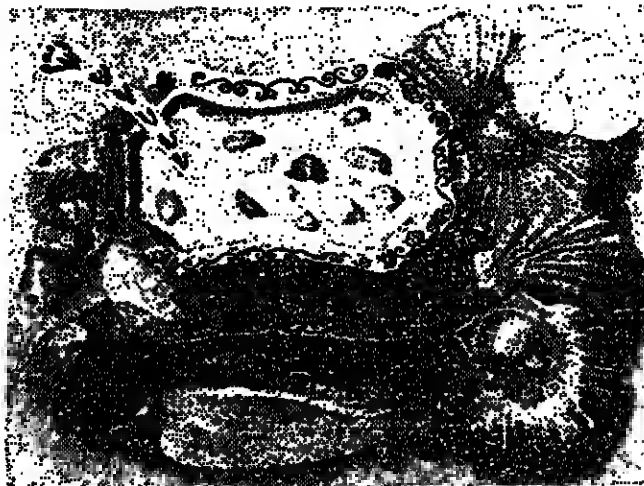
The chaudière derivation of chowder is certainly plausible, but not necessarily the most likely. Jowler, a fish hawket of any kind in 15th-century English dialect, sounds like a cod definition from Call My Bluff, but appears in the Oxford English Dictionary.

Milk and potatoes, indispensable ingredients in modern chowders, are later additions, as are tomatoes. There is a long-playing debate on the relative merits of Manhattan clam chowder, with tomatoes, and New England clam chowder, without.

Nowadays most recipe books

THE TIMES COOK

SHONA CRAWFORD POOLE



Chew over chowder

list chowders as soups and although they have indeed become thinner and more soup-like over the years they are still a meal in themselves. Clams will not be in season here until around June, but scallops are in good supply and good condition now. This simple chowder is based on a Nova Scotia recipe given by Alan Davidson in North Atlantic Seafood. The scallop corals not called for in the original recipe can be lightly fried and added to the dish, or heaped on top with bacon for a separate quick and memorable meal.

Scallop chowder. Serves four. 450g (1lb) scallops, white meat only. 30g (1oz) butter. 450g (1lb) potatoes, peeled and sliced. 1 mild onion, finely chopped. 300ml (1/2 pint) milk. 120ml (4 fluid oz) double cream. salt and freshly ground black pepper. Heat the butter in frying pan and lightly cook the cushions of white scallop meat to firm them. Remove and dice the

scallops then return them to the pan and quickly brown them on all sides.

Meanwhile, cook the potato and onion in lightly salted water to cover until they are done, but not mushy. Add the scallops together with their pan juices, the milk, cream and seasoning. Heat the chowder through without letting it come back to the boil. Serve it with crackers.

Onions fried golden brown in the fat rendered from salt pork are the basis of many recipes, and any firm-fleshed fish will make a good chowder. Haddock, smoked or fresh, is particularly successful in this substantial, homely dish.

Cod chowder. Serves two. 55g (2oz) fat salt pork or green bacon, diced. 225g (8oz) onions, finely chopped. 450g (1lb) potatoes, peeled and sliced. 450g (1lb) fillet of cod, skinned. 600ml (1 pint) milk. salt and freshly ground black pepper. 3 cream crackers.

Put the diced salt pork or bacon in a heavy pan and heat slowly until the fat runs, and continue cooking until the pork is crisp. Remove the meat from the pan and add the onions. Fry them until they are tender and lightly browned.

Add half the sliced potatoes, then the fish cut in large cubes or strips. Sprinkle the crisp pork or bacon over the fish, followed by the cracker crumbs, salt and pepper and the remaining potato. Pour in the milk, cover and cook at a bare simmer for about 25 minutes or until the potatoes are tender.

Serve as it is in deep soup plates, or thin down the chowder with more milk if you prefer it less thick. Reheat and adjust the seasoning.

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Royal party goes sour

The 50th anniversary of Edward VIII's accession did not pass unnoticed on Monday. The New Octavians, a group formed to rehabilitate the memory of the king who abdicated, held a celebration party. It went badly askew. A former chaplain of Eton, Dr James Bentley, was at the centre of the trouble. Although the Queen Mother was never likely to be a popular figure at such a gathering, he made a speech that contained some outspoken remarks about her, and exacerbated matters by casting aspersions on the Duchess of Windsor, whose toast he was proposing. The speech was received in stony silence and guests walked out. Edward VIII's former financial secretary, Miss Wyndham, held her head in her hands. Complaints were made to the organizer, Michael Bloch, the Duke's authorized biographer. "We were all rather shocked," Bloch told me yesterday. "The whole thing was utterly mortifying." Bentley was unrepentant. "I made a few hoary old jests at a private party, he said.

## Trendwise

Knock one set of employment restrictions down and up pops another. *London Labour Briefing* warns of the staffing of a new local authority in Haringey, north London. "Care will be taken to avoid a take-over by trendy middle-class aspirants and young streetwise *Guardian* readers."

## Running story

Neil Macfarlane was not the only Tory MP to have an unenvying encounter during the parliamentary break (PHS, Monday). Nicholas Baker of Dorset North tells me he was driving down the ferociously hazy A21 near Robertsbridge in Sussex when he had to swerve violently to avoid a frail elderly figure jogging blithely along. Baker suggested to gas control, he just had time to see that the figure, "encased in plastic and training shoes", was Lord Longford.

## Four and against

The immediate political career of David Blunkett, Labour's rising local government star, came within four votes of an abrupt end on Monday night. Some of his Labour colleagues on Sheffield city council, perhaps jealous of their leader's burgeoning national reputation, urged that a Militant councillor, Paul Green, who was thrown out of the Labour Party late last year for his Trotskyite views, be readmitted to the council's Labour group. Blunkett opposed this and let it be known that he would resign if he lost the vote. Blunkett won, but by a margin of only four out of 66 possible votes. Yesterday a wary Blunkett said: "What I might have done if the expulsion was not accepted is now history."



BARRY FANTONI

'Rule Britannia, Britannia rule the rails ...'

## Clay firing

MPs do not come much further left than Bob Clay, treasurer of Labour's Campaign Group. This makes it all the more embarrassing that he is experiencing labour relations problems of a nature more closely associated with capitalist management. Exactly what the problems are, Clay is not surprisingly reluctant to say, but it is known that he has given his secretary, Deborah Shields, notice of redundancy and that the matter has been taken up by her union. Clay employs Ms Shields and a researcher in his Sunderland North constituency office. All that he would say yesterday was that he has been "dissatisfied for a long time" with arrangements in his Sunderland office and that he has "found it increasingly difficult to afford two people full time." He went on: "Discussion with these [people] and their trade union in an attempt to come to a mutually agreeable solution has failed."

## Losing the shine

Warrington Development Corporation is ruing the day it built a factory complex, Silver City, out of reflective aluminium. A High Court has ruled it must pay compensation to one of its tenants because hundreds of gallons of rainwater flooded the premises. The accident, which took place days before the development won a design award, happened after birds' feathers and droppings blocked drainage pipes in the roof. The birds apparently mistake the shiny flat roof for a lake.

PHS

# Listen to this Ulster protest

### Edmund Curran outlines why the Anglo-Irish agreement signals a rebellion in the making

**Belfast** The Anglo-Irish agreement was intended to bring peace, stability and reconciliation, but so far there is little sign of a new dawn. Two opinion polls, published by the *Belfast Telegraph* and the BBC, show confusion and opposition throughout the Protestant community.

According to the signatories to the agreement, Dublin's role falls short of decision-making but is more than consultative. It appears to matter little among Protestants what that role is; consent is not forthcoming. The opinion polls indicate opposition so entrenched that Thursday's by-elections have the look of a foregone conclusion.

A crisis threatens in Northern Ireland as it did 12 years ago, when the last attempt at an Anglo-Irish pact collapsed in the face of a crippling strike and savage car-bombings south of the border. The parallels are frightening. Protestants then were nowhere so united as they appear now.

Half the population of Northern Ireland believes that over the next six months the agreement will not work or will lead to increased conflict between Unionists and the government. A third of Protestants

favour industrial action: 10 per cent would go so far as violence. Even half the Roman Catholic population feels support for the IRA's political wing will be unchanged.

Against such worrying trends the prospects are troubling, especially if Westminster rejects again the Protestants' protests at the polls.

The reality of the agreement is that Protestants are becoming a sullen people apart. In County Tyrone, for example, they cannot bring themselves to participate in ecumenical songs of praise with their Catholic neighbours. There is appalling talk, too, of boycotting Southern Irish goods and thinly veiled threats to plot violence in the south. An agreement intended to enhance cross-border friendship has so far achieved nothing of the kind.

It should be recalled that the previous attempt at an accord, the Sunningdale agreement of 1973, proposed a much lower level of involvement for the Irish Republic. Many Protestants were prepared to support that accord, not least the

late Brian Faulkner, a Unionist leader who staked his considerable reputation upon it. For all his powers of persuasion and political guile, it ended in chaos after six months.

Where is there a voice like Faulkner's in the Protestant community today? That lack alone is enough to make the situation more serious than in 1974. Deep resentment lingers among the most moderate voices within the Protestant community that they were out of the action in the secret negotiations between London and Dublin. The agreement itself, instead of promoting reconciliation, has left Protestants in a dangerous state of obduracy.

Now the resentment, confusion and obduracy are about to be folded inside the ballot papers and formally brought to outside attention. Two months on, the smiles at Hillsborough gave way to furrowed brows and tempered words. The answer from the Protestants is on its way; perhaps 400,000 times and more, no.

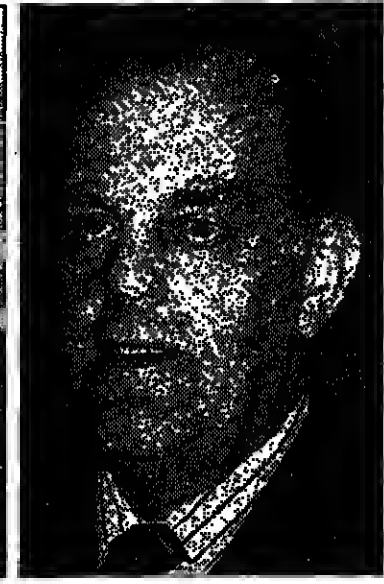
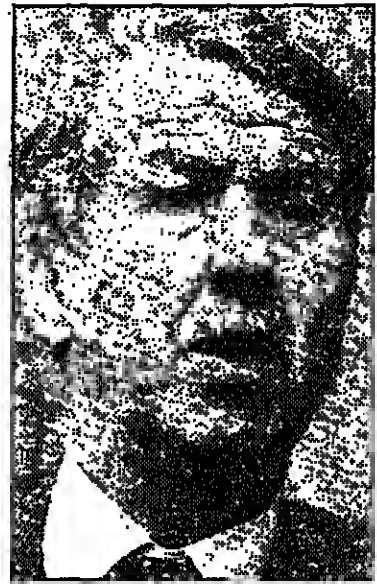
The opinion polls should make worrying reading for those prepared to face realities rather than indulge in wishful thinking. But is anyone out there listening? Or have the consequences begun to register of facing down this rebellion in the making? Will anything be achieved if everyone presses on regardless behind the closed doors of the Anglo-Irish secretariat? Of what value their deliberations, if so many reject them?

Time is on nobody's side. The proponents of the accord with Dublin concede that its benefits may take months, even years, to materialize. But the mood in Ulster does not allow for such luxury. The immediate question in 1986 is obvious - is it to be confrontation or consent, so far as Protestants are concerned?

"The only unity I cherish is that which has the wholehearted and freely given support of my Protestant fellow-countrymen," the nationalist leader John Hume once said. "Unless that consent is forthcoming, unless there is a union of hearts and minds, there can be no unity."

The danger signals are flashing - for those who care to see them. The author is deputy editor of the *Belfast Telegraph*.

## Alex Henney on the weakness of Peter Walker's proposed privatization bill



In a polite but forceful report, the House of Commons energy committee yesterday criticised government proposals for regulating a privatized British Gas Corporation. The committee says that the proposals, devised by Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of British Gas, and Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, are inadequate "to ensure that the gas industry does not fall prey to the temptation to abuse its great powers, to the disadvantage of its customers and of the country."

The committee is right to be sceptical about the claims of Rooke and Walker that there is much competition in most of the markets which use gas. It is right to criticise the restrictions that the government proposes to retain in order to minimize such competition as there might be. It rightly refers to various views put forward by Rooke and Walker as "disingenuous," "surprisingly complacent," and "superficial logic."

The key feature of the government's proposed sale of British Gas is to sell it intact. Its prices to smaller customers will be published by a formula which allows for the passing through of the cost of purchasing gas, together with a factor to cover its operating costs which reduces in real terms by "x per cent" annually. Its prices to larger contract customers will be free of constraint. Although it must publish separate accounts for its gas supply business, it need not separate the tariff and contract businesses, so it can cross-subsidize.

A director-general of gas supply will ensure that British Gas adheres to the tariff formula, but he has few other duties, and no duty to promote competition. The proposals provide British Gas with maximum monopoly power combined with minimum constraints on the use of that power. Regulation is fragmented, and limited: the annual cost of regulation is expected to increase by mere £300,000 over the £1.7 million spent on the current Gas Consumers Councils, which are powerless. The proposals ensure that British Gas's performance in many areas would be obscure, and public accountability minimal.

According to Walker, these

# Stronger hand wanted on the gas controls

arrangements will "benefit customers, industry, employees and the nation as a whole." Taking British Telecom's example, benefits to the industry and employees will be substantially increased profits and share prices, significantly improved emoluments for the directors, and an easy life for the relaxed regulatory regime.

The short-term financial benefit to the government from disposing of British Gas just before an election is obvious. British Gas has been fattened up so that its return on assets over 1980-84 averaged twice that of ICI.

It is not clear, however, what customers gain from the sale of assets which they have already paid for. British Gas is a debt-free. Customers are owing being asked to pay for them again with an obligation to pay £1 billion or so annually to service loan interest and dividends. Walker has not indicated what "X" will be, and if BT is a precedent, the public - who notionally own the business and are its customers - will not be privy to the basis of the figure, which will be a private horse-trade between Rooke and Walker. It may be partially leaked to brokers and bankers to help flotation by reassuring them that it is an easy target.

The 1980 inquiry into the supply of domestic gas appliances showed that as a public body, British Gas massaged its accounts and acted against the public interest to further its management's ambitions. As a private monopoly, with directors owing a fiduciary duty to shareholders, it is even more likely to abuse its privileged position, and thus the check on public interest should be strong, not weak.

There is no hint in the govern-

ment's proposals that a monopoly franchise to provide a public utility service is a privilege. It gives a company business without any need to seek consent and without the financial risks associated with most business ventures, and the monopoly revenue it enjoys provides the security for raising capital for investment. The quid pro quo is that a privilege granted by the public should be clearly exercised for the benefit of the public, and should be seen to be so.

These are not ideas that are obvious to Rooke. For instance he dislikes other suppliers using the national gas grid because, as he said: "We built it, we run it." This shows no understanding that the grid was authorized and funded by the public for the public.

In the US, public service commissions regulate monopolies. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said, they "are to act as representatives of the people to see to it that a utility does two things: give service and charge a reasonable tariff." Contrary to British mythology, US state public service commissions are not particularly expensive, nor do they spend vast sums on litigation, nor are they captured by the industries they regulate. The pressures they exert (including financial penalties for inefficiency) are far more demanding than the gentle regulation of British Telecom and British Gas. In consequence US utilities are generally more efficient and more oriented to the needs of their customers.

Good commissions provide a means of examining and resolving a range of complex technical issues in a decentralized and relatively depoliticized framework, broadly for

the public interest. They provide a countervailing check on the performance of utilities that redresses the imbalance between individual customers and powerful utilities. In a significant step forward, the energy committee has recommended that the government should study the relevance of the US system to the UK context.

To ensure that British Gas runs primarily for the benefit of the public, it should be privatized in as liberal and competitive a manner as possible, with restrictions of gas imports and exports removed. British Gas should be divided into regional companies, and the accounts opened up. The basis of the price formula should be available for the public - to see. Then a gas commission possessing adequate resources and powers should regulate it to promote competition, to check it and to mediate the complex web of vested interests that impinge upon it.

The commission should determine tariffs to ensure that they do not discriminate; monitor efficiency; structure financial incentives and penalties for good and poor performance; rule on standards of service and arbitrate customer complaints; prescribe methods of accounting; and ensure that British gas companies fairly. It should also provide a forum where the public can make its views known in an effective manner, and (as in a free market) have them prevail where appropriate over the interests of management and shareholders.

The Conservative election manifesto pledged that it would not "merely replace state monopolies by private ones as that would waste a historic opportunity to ensure they do not exploit their positions to the detriment of customers". Recently John Moore, the financial secretary, claimed that the objective of privatization was to increase competitiveness and efficiency. Refinancing a public monopoly with minimal regulation dishonours those pledges. Alex Henney is author of *Regulating Public and Privatized Monopolies*, just published by the Public Finance Foundation.

# After Gillick, why girls still need help

By the time Jocelyn phoned the number she had seen in a teenage magazine for the Brook Advisory Centre she was already pregnant. "I can't tell my mum," she wept down the phone. "She'll kill me." I went through her options gently but with growing exasperation as her sobs became louder and the crackling line faded. GP? "No, I was there this morning for cough medicine, I couldn't go back. He's known me since I was a baby and my aunt works there." Family planning clinic? "Well, it's in the same building as the doctor and besides I think it's only open in the afternoons and I'm supposed to be at school."

Jocelyn, 17, is pregnant and desperate. Where does she turn? Some people seem to think that the House of Lords' ruling in the Gillick case has solved the problem of advice to teenagers about sex and contraception. It has not.

The Gillick case was a battle over who has the right to consent to medical treatment and advice for girls aged under 16. Victoria Gillick sought to have declared illegal part of a memorandum of guidance to doctors from the Department of Health and Social Security. The resolution of the case has not clarified the DHSS's advice.

On the contrary, for the sake of Jocelyn and young people like her who live in that half of the country

where the health authorities provide no specialized youth advisory sessions, a clear statement of policy from the DHSS has never been needed more.

The DHSS's first Memo of Guidance, published in 1974, at least faced the need for contraception and advice to be available to all, irrespective of age. It told local health authorities that sessions for young people would be useful. They should be separate from general health counselling, preferably in an informal setting.

"Whatever place is chosen, an informal and friendly atmosphere is desirable, as is the choice of staff with whom the young find it easy to communicate and who are sympathetic to their problems."

But these valuable clauses were lost when, in 1980, a second memorandum was issued. Its section on the young concentrated on the under-16s and talked only about good medical practice during individual consultations.

The DHSS has promised a new statement. It must, post-Gillick, revise its advice to doctors on counselling the under-16s, and give maximum encouragement to health authorities to improve birth control services.

Young people are receptive to the media. Local clinics should take advantage of this to advertise their opening hours, preferably to be

outside school and working hours.

Confidentiality is essential. Jocelyn's greatest concern was that somebody might find out. Discretion and support would help her to feel confident enough to involve her family. Young men should be welcomed with their partners. They should be invited, if the partner wishes, to take part in the consultation. They should also be encouraged to come alone if they wish, for counselling or contraceptive supplies.

Despite an undoubted rise in sexual activity the teenage conception rate has been declining since 1974. This trend demonstrates an increased consciousness about contraception. Nevertheless, still too many sexually active teenagers are not using contraception and almost a third of all abortions are performed on teenagers. One in 10 of teenagers turning 15 this year will have an abortion before the age of 20. Yet only the same proportion of teenagers attend family planning clinics now as 10 years ago.

It's not the motivation of teenagers that is responsible for this disappointing trend, it is the lack of appropriate services.

Alison Frater  
The author works for the Brook Advisory Centre.

# Lloyd's: a minister on Thatcher's hook

Perhaps it was the 500 times I was preached at while at school, but I have never before in my adult life shown any desire to swap the soapbox for the pulpit. This weekend it has been different. What I would give for the voice and imagery of Donald Soper! Finding a suitable text would be no problem either (those 500 sermons achieved something). It came to mind immediately: Proverbs, Chapter 16, Verse 18, "Fride goeth before destruction; and an haughty spirit before a fall."

As to the subject-matter, Westland would be mentioned only in passing. Instead I would concentrate upon the moral tale of the innocent but hapless Michael Howard, QC, MP, whose untenable position is a consequence of the pride and haughty spirit that infested this government until the Almighty divined that a small helicopter company in the West Country should teach it a lesson.

Howard is an able and urbane lawyer, the member for Folkestone and Hythe, first elected in 1983. He is a member of Lloyd's. He was active as an underwriting member of Lloyd's (including 13 ministers) until last September 2 when he was appointed a junior minister. So "in accordance with the conventions applying to ministers in my position," he ceased all underwriting.

However, as he told the Commons on January 14, "I remain a non-underwriting member of Lloyd's, but I have no further business there save for that arising out of my pre-existing contracts before they expire."

He has a problem; and so does the Prime Minister. He is not just any old junior minister, responsible for signing endless replies to boring constituency inquiries from MPs to the Department of the Environment. He is the Minister for Consumer Affairs, the man with day-to-day responsibility for Lloyd's itself, and the minister who has the duty to pilot through its committee stage the Financial Services Bill which aims to provide the City with a "regulatory framework as comprehensive as it is modern," to use the words of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

But Howard's problems go even deeper than that. As any O-level student of business studies will now confirm, Lloyd's (with Johnson Matthey Bankers) has been the principal political occasion of the bill. Of course, the government can say that the bill implements recommendations of the Gower Committee, which pre-dated the scandals at Lloyd's and the collapse of the bank. But without those scandals, sorting out the City would not have become as imperative as it now is, and legislation would hardly have been a priority at all.

Clause 40 of the bill specifically exempts the insurance and investment activities of Lloyd's. Howard has the unenviable job of explaining why that should be so. The fact the government announced on Lloyd's makes his job all the more difficult, since by establishing an inquiry it concedes that something may be wrong and its previous claim that all was put right by the 1982 Lloyd's bill is undermined.

Whether he likes it or not, Howard's involvement in "pre-existing contracts" gives him a continuing interest in Lloyd's. Insurance contracts are by their nature about future events; to cater

for this reality, Lloyd's underwrites accounts (and tax assessments) as dealt with three years in arrears. His liabilities - and profits - from his "pre-existing" 1985 contracts will not be assessed until 1988.

Despite a challenge from the Labour benches, he was permitted to vote on the bill last week - because it was about "public policy". There are virtually no circumstances, by the rules, in which an MP may be disqualified from voting on a "public policy" bill, however direct or close his interest.

It is a mark of Howard's continuing interest as a member of Lloyd's that had he been in the Commons in 1981 when the Lloyd's bill, a private measure, was debated, he would, even as a "non-underwriting member", almost certainly have been advised not to vote, on the ground, to quote the parliamentary authority Erskine May, that "no member who has a direct pecuniary interest in a question shall be allowed to vote upon it". This was the advice given on that occasion to the 53 MPs who were then members of Lloyd's (including 13 ministers).

Whether MPs can vote is a matter for the House; whether a minister's position may cause a conflict of interest is ultimately a matter for the prime minister. Given the principles accepted by successive governments, it is difficult to conceive of any previous prime minister, not possessing the haughty spirit of this one, putting a minister in such an invidious predicament. The guidance enunciated by Sir Winston Churchill in the Commons in 1952 is crystal clear:

"1. It is a principle of public life that ministers must so order their affairs that no conflict arises, or signing endless replies to boring private interests and public duties.

"2. Such a conflict... may arise not only if a minister has a financial interest in such an undertaking but also if he is actively associated with any body... which might have negotiations or other dealings with the government."

In any case of doubt the prime minister of the day must be the final judge" (emphasis added). In short, justice must not only be done, but be seen to be done. And if Howard wants a precedent to follow, he should look no further than the present Speaker, Bernard Weatherill. In 1981 he was an underwriting member of Lloyd's (he is no longer). Then, as deputy Speaker and chairman of ways and means, he had special responsibility for the progress of private bills (though, unlike Howard, no responsibility for the content of the legislation).

When the Lloyd's bill came up, he announced that "it would be undesirable for me to discharge, in relation to the Lloyd's bill," the duties of chairman of ways and means. He clearly understood the need for justice to be seen to be done.

Lloyd's apologists excuse its special treatment on the ground of its foreign earnings. But ICI earns in exports, nearly three times as much as Lloyd's (£2,835 million in 1984, against Lloyd's earnings of £991 million). If Clause 40 of the Finance Bill specifically excluded ICI from its operation, and the minister responsible had just resigned as a director, but continued with a "pre-existing financial interest", we might consider there to be a conflict. Can anyone tell me the difference? The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

## moreover... Miles Kington

# Top of the boredom pops

I often remember, with horrified fascination, a conversation I once heard in a taxi queue at Paddington. It was between two strangers, brought together by the ordeal of waiting for a taxi. One man said: "I say - isn't that the new Peugeot over there?" The other man said apparently the fuel consumption wasn't the greatest in the world, but that its road-holding and general performance were well above average. The first man nodded, and added that it was surprisingly roomy inside, or so he had heard.

The conversation flowed on effortlessly for five or ten minutes before I was forced to leave it. By that time it sounded as if these two men were good friends. They weren't, of course; they were still total strangers who had hit on one of those subjects which can apparently bring people together. Men, usually. It would be hard to imagine two women spontaneously starting a technical conversation about the pros and cons of a new French car. That is one of the reasons I think of women as belonging to the superior roominess of a Peugeot has nothing to do with real life.

Of course, I can't remember whether the car was a Peugeot or a Fiat and whether they were talking about its roominess or its cornering ability, but that is irrelevant. All car conversations sound the same: boring. I would nominate motoring conversations as one of the most truly boring of all kinds of conversation.

Whether motoring conversations are the most boring of all is another matter. Incredible though it may seem, there are other people as boring as motorists and I have ventured to note down a list of those minorities whose company should be shunned at all cost, unless you are suffering from insomnia. Opera buffs. Why opera-lovers should be more boring than other kinds of music-lovers is not quite clear, but they are, especially those who have been recently converted. It may be something to do with the fact that none of them plays a musical instrument and is thus even more in love with music than if they had to struggle with it face to face. Cricket-lovers. Cricket is to sport as opera is to music. Cricket-lovers can become ecstatic at the memory of a certain game which they were not at, never saw and have never met an eye-witness of. This is not just boring, it is somewhat unbalanced. Cricket-lovers quite like cricket in their own way, but it is statistics that they really love.

People who have just been asked for the first time. Jazz-lovers. As a jazz lover, it grieves me to say this, but we are even more boring than opera fans, especially as we always talk about records and never about real jazz events. If a few jazz-lovers are invited to a party they all end up talking to one another, and they all stay longer than anyone else.

BBC employees. Anyone who has been with the BBC more than about four years seriously thinks that real life is not quite as real as life in the BBC. They have become characters in a soap opera, and their minds have become slightly poisoned. They would rather talk about the BBC than anything in the world. They can talk about other things but their heart is never in it.

People who like comparing one airline with another. People who have just discovered computers.

Health food freaks. These are small, grey, drawn, unsmiling, implacable people who, like to tell you how giving up meat and cheese has made them so well and bursting with energy. None of them ever looks half as lively as the average carnivore. Wine-lovers. It takes talent to make something as nice as wine boring, but the British have a special talent for it. There is something religious about the way we approach wine, and nothing could be more boring than the British approach to religion. People who loathe Mrs Thatcher. More people for the short-list soon, and perhaps a grand final.

كيسا من الامل





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RITE OF WINTER

Mr Kenneth Baker, like Environment Secretaries before him, is damned if he do and damned if he don't. He is custodian of a mighty machine for distributing government grant. He has some discretion over its direction. It is a season of awakened public concern about the urban condition. To make our gesture towards the extra costs of public services - to the inner cities, especially inner London, would have brought upon his head the anger of the warm-hearted and paternalist knights of the shires. To make such a gesture by retrieving a small (less than 1 per cent of the aggregate current expenditure of English councils) proportion of the high resource, suburban counties has brought on his head the anger of the...

social services, and the flow of grant has, slightly, gone against such counties as West Sussex, Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire. The bill of complaint against Mr Baker put together by his own backbenchers is not very impressive. The shire counties themselves have a far from spotless spending record over the past six years; Mr Baker quite appropriately reminded them that a sizeable portion of the real terms increase in council spending since 1979 is attributable to Conservative-controlled counties. West Sussex and similar counties did, at one time, suffer a considerable injustice when they were penalized for spending less than the official estimate of what their schools and home helps cost; that has been rectified. Voting against the annual RSG order is a rite of winter. Monday's political arithmetic had little to do with the Government's general standing, much to do with the sometimes tortured relations of Conservative members and their county halls. Conservative losses to the Alliance at last year's elections were chastening and have made more than one home counties MP cultivate his local reputation, even at the cost of defying the whip. But local appearance is one thing, and sound policy for local government another. Mr Baker, anxious not to offend his political supporters, promised them, as he has many times before, that come the Green Paper all will be well. Complexities, he seemed to imply, would become untangled and...

hard political judgement about finite resources would become easy. Such promises are self-defeating. There is much that is wrong with the local financial system, if the county representatives had not occupied the floor, there was much for which Mr Baker should have been held to account, most of all the Indian rope trick he is playing with RSG for the various bodies, big and small, accountable and free-floating, that are to succeed the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties. Then there is the simple fact that the Government has chosen continuously since 1980 to cut the proportion of local spending covered by central grant and hence transfer a tax burden from one domestic pocket to another. But the Green Paper, if it is to be an honest document, will offer no cure-all. As long as there is to be central assistance towards the cost of local services (which are enjoined by statute) then it will be a matter of political debate how much the general taxpayer and how much the payer of local charges and taxes should contribute. As long as that central assistance is paid in a way that reflects the capacity of local areas to tax themselves there will be political debate about which local authority gets more. There will, to other words, be a perennial contest to which the interests of West Sussex are in some way compared and contrasted with those of Southwark (and Sutton). The politician in the middle will never win the loser's plaudits.

EXIT THE CHIEF

Chief Jonathan's calls for sanctions against South Africa have rebounded against him with all the force of a returning boomerang. Felled partly by the weapon he demanded, he might comfort himself by reflecting on a still greater irony that has emerged from Lesotho's political crisis. President P.W. Botha and his Government in Pretoria have proved to everyone else's satisfaction that sanctions can work. The point should not be pressed too far. A blockade on Lesotho, imposed by the country which surrounds it, is a very different proposition from the boycott of South Africa itself by a divided and capricious world. The tiny kingdom has always been vulnerable - as its septuagenarian ex-prime minister has recognized. In the end he has been removed not by South Africa's forces but his own. His countrymen's own reaction to the coup which resulted in his overthrow has hardly reflected much grief. The hardship which Lesotho has suffered as a result of the South African blockade was the last straw - not the first. Nor is it clear whether Pretoria, in mounting the blockade, was going so far as to try to...

unseat him. On the face of it certainly, the South African authorities wanted the return of African National Congress (ANC) terrorists - and might have been satisfied by a policy change of this kind. It might yet transpire that the overthrow of Jonathan was their real objective - and that President Botha's hand lay beneath the events of this week. But so far it looks like an unplanned bonus for the South Africans. The effect of the coup upon the ANC and its operations remains to be seen. The reaction of Pretoria suggests that the new regime in Lesotho will be less sympathetic to the black insurgents, although how actively it will discourage them from crossing the border is another imponderable. Lesotho is such a natural haven for those seeking sanctuary that it may be difficult to keep them out. But to some extent at least, life for the ANC is likely to be more difficult. To a sense the ANC has only itself to blame. The recent concentration of its terrorists on "soft" targets in South Africa's streets and supermarkets, has only stiffened the resolve of the Pretoria Government and con-

solidated its support among the white population. The siege of Lesotho may be seen as a warning to other frontier states which harbour the coemies of apartheid. But it also reflects Pretoria's need to reassure anxious whites about their Government's capacity to react. If the ANC's campaign has the effect of uniting whites behind the Government - and even inducing them to call for tough policies, it is likely to be self-defeating as well as abortive. Fortunately, from the ANC's point of view, President Botha's Government seems to suffer from similar misperceptions. Its obstinacy only limits the options of those who are bitterly opposed to the system. Mr Botha deserves more credit than he is usually given for the reforms he has introduced - in the face of opposition from the far right. But it is also true that he needs to show more evidence of his appetite for fundamental change if he is to placate his critics at home and abroad. Lesotho might be considered a small victory for South Africa and a reverse for its enemies. But it is not one that gives any real cause for celebration in Pretoria.

AN ACADEMIC RETREAT

Last week the Association of University Teachers took "industrial action". Its object was to protest at the government's parsimony towards the universities, making the not unreasonable point that British university education is expensive but that the quality of its graduates, its scholarship and research more than counter-balance. The university ideal, the professors were arguing (albeit by means of a rather ineffective day of action), could not be supported on the cheap. They have a case, but it is one fatally weakened unless the universities themselves cherish the academic ideal. That ideal encompasses the disinterested pursuit of truth and the creation of conditions for free and non-partisan exchange of knowledge and the insights of scholarship. The recent conduct of three overlapping groups of academics - the "activists" of the Association of University Teachers, the members of the University of Southampton, and university archaeologists - has badly injured it. Last autumn the academic staff of the University of Southampton followed fashion,

They sacrificed the ideal of free intellectual interchange for the hypocritical fad of banning South Africans. Southampton was, this September, to have been the site of the eleventh congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Proto-historic Sciences, the world gath'ring of archaeologists at which some 3,000 were expected to attend. The Southampton AUT, following its national policy, connived with the local council and the students' union to threaten the committee organizing the event. This committee, told that an effort to remove the congress from Southampton to another British venue would provoke disruption, caved in. It "disinvited" archaeologists attached to South African universities. It happens that South African archaeologists have long been an embarrassment to the stricter believers in white racial superiority. Their discoveries have contradicted the official lie of the history and quality of Bantu culture. Individual South African archaeologists have been courageous and public critics of apartheid. This was irrelevant. Irrel-

evant, too, to the Southampton academics was the fact that their discrimination against South African scholars quite naturally provoked others and raised the possibility that Southampton would be left to host a rump congress attended by a disreputable group of British Communist and "Third World" archaeologists. With the banning of the South Africans and the withdrawal of numerous American some of the principle scientific sessions would have been gutted. As a world gathering the eleventh congress would have been a sham. Now, thanks to the West Germans and the resolution of the International Union's executive, archaeology is to have its congress. It is to take place in Mainz and there are to be no bans. Third World scholars who are pressured into withdrawing because South African colleagues will attend will alone be the losers. The Association of University Teachers has been relieved of embarrassing responsibility for an act of academic vandalism. But its pusillanimity should not be forgotten when the professors make their high, idealistic arguments for more public funds.

The missing matron

From the Director of the National Association of Health Authorities in England and Wales. Sir, The Royal College of Nursing is doing a disservice to the health service in its expensive campaign to overturn the recently agreed management structures of health authorities (Trevor Clay, feature, January 13). Following the Government's acceptance of the recommendations made by Sir Roy Griffiths, health authorities are appointing general

managers and revising their management structures to take account of these appointments. Most provide for medical and nursing membership of the top-level district management board and nurses generally are playing a vital role in management at all levels. The implementation of Griffiths is leading to more decisive management and stronger leadership, which is helping to create an improved service. That is why the Royal College of Nursing is so misguided in aiming to make the Department of Health and Social Security lay down to the last dot and comma, the

management structure for each unit in the NHS. Managers surely cannot be expected to operate effectively in a climate where they are constantly being told what to do by Whitehall. Nor can the NHS afford to become embroiled in a sterile management demarcation dispute. Yours sincerely, PHILIP A. HUNT, Director, National Association of Health Authorities in England and Wales, Carlton House, 47 Edgemoor Park Road, Birmingham. January 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to resolve the crisis over tin

From Mr Jacques K. Lion. Sir, The tin crisis drags on into its third month, during which time the tin market on the London Metal Exchange has remained closed. It must reopen during the next seven to 10 days in view of the damage being done to our other metal contracts. France, Germany and the Netherlands have overtly prevented any constructive approach to the solution of the problem by claiming that, according to their interpretation of the International Tin Agreement, no further funds are due from them beyond the subscriptions already made. However, the contracts into which the huffer stock manager entered with individual brokers were not written subject to the International Tin Agreement and must therefore be viewed as a normal commercial transaction imposing normal commercial obligations, the principal, in this case the International Tin Council, being responsible for the actions of its agents. The default on the purchase by the Tin Council of 63,000 tonnes of tin will have incalculable effects on international trade for the future if

Threat to British defence projects

From the Leader of the Social Democratic Party. Sir, Your editorial ("And the spenders go on spending", January 16) contains a salutary warning for all politicians. Your claim that the Defence budget is "facing small cuts over the next three years" is, however, a travesty. In fact, the Defence budget is now set to fall by £1.2 billion in real terms over the next three years, a total cut of 7 per cent. This poses a major threat to existing conventional defence projects if you, Sir, like the Government, continue to support the Trident missile programme, and continue to rail against any negotiations with the Argentines over the Falkland Islands. Or will The Times rethink its policy - advocate a cheaper and more modest replacement for Polaris; support discussing the sharing of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands or the transfer of sovereignty to the UN? It is probable that the real-term decline in defence expenditure will be even more serious than predicted. Defence spending costs have tended to rise by about 1 per cent per annum more than the general rate of inflation and Forces pay is expected to rise by 4 per cent in 1986/87 - the same year when the Defence budget is due to fall by 5.8 per cent, or half a billion pounds. In considering Mr Heseltine's resignation it ought not to be forgotten that he had accepted a public expenditure White Paper which will have more damaging consequences for our conventional defence effort in the medium term than you appear to recognise. Yours sincerely, DAVID OWEN, House of Commons, January 20.

Democracy in politics

From Mr P. J. M. Sinclair. Sir, Your leading article ("The national interest", January 16) rightly draws attention to the damage which the Westland affair has done to "the dignity of Cabinet government" and the potential for strengthening it if the right lessons are learnt and acted upon. The need to do so is urgent, for the standards of political behaviour have surely sunk to a new low in public esteem. The major lesson has nothing to do with Westland: it relates to the lack of democracy and especially of accountability in the ways in which we allow ourselves in Britain to be governed. Mr Heseltine's charge of undemocratic practices on the part of the Prime Minister is not new, but it should focus our attention on the undemocratic practices which are to be found at every level of political activity particularly, though not exclusively, inside the Conservative Party. A member of a local Conservative association will seldom be allowed a vote, in the choice between competing prospective parliamentary candi-

Doctors' exams

From Dr P. Edney. Sir, Your report last week (January 10) about the poor performance by doctors taking the examination for the Royal College of General Practitioners failed to point out the weakness of the exam itself. Medicine is a very practical profession, assessing and diagnosing patients' problems and advising or prescribing treatment. The RCGP examination is purely a written and oral test, with not one patient in the building. This is not the case for the final examinations taken by medical students, and certainly the royal colleges of surgeons and physicians assess their prospective entrants on their practical techniques with patients. Your faithfully, P. J. M. SINCLAIR, April Cottage, Amersham Road, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Best of British

From Lord Hunt. Sir, Roger Scruton's article in your newspaper of yesterday's date (January 14), "Best of British living on", seeks to persuade your readers that, far from any trend towards the United Kingdom becoming a dependency and outpost of the USA, it is the United States which keeps the spirit of our former empire alive across the Atlantic; indeed, he goes further by suggesting that the USA is itself an outpost of Britain (e.g., "we retain our empire in America"). Such a claim may appeal to some. To myself it is absurd in point of fact, and objectionable as a proposition. Having lived and worked in some of our own outposts of empire during the latter days of the British Raj, I am second to none in proclaiming the contributions - in ideals as well as in matters of substance - which our country has

Student grants

From the President of the University of Bath Students' Union. Sir, Once again we are seeing the Government offering up students as sacrificial lambs, this time by means of minor (sic) adjustments to the benefit system. For many students, particularly those in London or tourist centres like Bath, accommodation costs are enormous and the high amount of choice but to pay rental over all vacations. At the moment they can do so in the knowledge that they can reclaim most (not all) of the cost from the DHSS. Taking students out of the benefit system will cost some students as much as £500 per year. A trivial £36 increase in the grant is clearly pitiful compensation for this loss, and in any case for most students it will merely increase the level of parental contribution. Mr Newton (Minister for Social Security) and Mr Fowler regard the present administration costs of student benefits as "indefensible" (report, January 8). Perhaps they are right. However, given this Government's dedication to increased efficiency, might it not be more reasonable to improve the administration than remove the benefits? What is absolutely indefensible is for the Government to remove essential

Recovered sounds

From Mr J. D. Richard. Sir, When living near High Wycombe, I made a pole lathe one day - it is as simple as that - and was delighted to hear the "churr-churr" described in books as having been once a common sound in beech woods where boggers turned chair legs, on the spot, from newly felled timber. Yours faithfully, J. D. RICHARD, 24 Cavendish Road, Henleaze, Bristol, Avon.

In the bag

From Dr Barbara Reynolds. Sir, In view of their Lordships' interest in the contents of the Woolsack, may I, through the courtesy of your correspondence columns, remind them that investigation may be more urgently needed than they perhaps realize? In 1921 Lord Peter Winsey's defective instinct led him to ask for the Woolsack to be opened. Inside were the Athenbury emeralds - more uncomfortable to sit on, one would imagine, than felted wool. Yours faithfully, BARBARA REYNOLDS (Deputy Chairman, Dorothy L. Sayers Historical and Literary Society), 20 Milton Road, Cambridge, January 17.

Law centre at risk

From Lord Silkin of Dulwich and others. Sir, As the present and former members of Parliament, and the lay members of the European Parliament, for the constituencies of the London borough of Southwark, we are acutely aware of the need of our constituents for the services provided by our local law centre, Southwark Law Project. Since its formation in late 1976 the law project has given advice and assistance to many thousands of our constituents who would not otherwise have had access to the law. Law centres such as ours are accessible outside office hours; cover legal matters which are of great importance but are generally outside the scope of the legal aid scheme, or which private firms for various reasons do not handle. We would single out in particular legal action for public and private tenants; representations before the industrial tribunal and other tribunals; home visiting by advisers to the disabled or housebound; legal

Staying power

From Mrs Ione Adams. Sir, For Mr Butler's (January 16) information, I am still wearing constantly a naval sweater bestowed by my husband on joining the Navy in 1936. This was the year of my birth and I am intending to wear it to the end. It washes, it wears, it warms and only the cuffs have been darned. Yours truly, IONE ADAMS, The Oxdrive House, Burghclere, Newbury, Berkshire.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 22 1986 A selection from two pages of "Latest Intelligence".

THE CONGO STATE.

BRUSSELS, JAN. 19. Further news from the Congo Free State has been furnished through a letter addressed to a friend at Namour by a missionary residing at the station situated at the junction on the Upper Congo and the Kasai. After referring to the murder of M. Peltzer at Lubumbashi, he adds: "But this is a stale news. What is more recent is that the number of whites killed in this district amounted to ten. They were killed by the rebel soldiers (Batistales), who had been enrolled in the Lubumbashi district. Though the Batistales are not numerous, they were sufficiently so to furnish the hundred soldiers who organized the rebellion. The remainder of the tribe is at Leopoldville. "The disturbances spread to the region of the Upper Lomami, fomented as it now appears by the Arabs, Major Lonhaire went to Lubumbashi with 300 soldiers. He received a spear wound and a bullet wound. I do not know whether he died of these or not. Proceeding higher, they say five whites were killed in the Upper Welle. On the Mongalla the victims were returned by the director of the Antwerp Society of Commerce, and his colleague M. Devadder. M. Chaitin has scoured Mongwaenge, where Keeland was killed. All the Itambiri country has been ravaged by a crisis. "The mission of Father Garzyn at Kalala Kafumba is destroyed. It was robbed and pillaged by his people themselves, who burned down the buildings. Out of 500 only 200 followed Father Garzyn into the forest. At the end of a year (when we had given him up for dead) he emerged from the bush near Lusambo. He is now at the mission-station of Saint Trudon, near the latter place."

CANADA.

OTTAWA, JAN. 21. The Government has practically decided to purchase 40,000 rounds of Martini-Enfield rifles with which to arm the Canadian militia. The authorities here consider the mechanism of the magazine rifle too delicate for the weapon to be placed in the hands of raw troops. It is therefore proposed to purchase a quantity of the permanent force, which is already armed with it. The new weapon chosen will have the Martini action with an Enfield three-grooved barrel, and will carry a 303 bullet, the same as the Lee-Metford. Hence only one class of ammunition will be required in Canada, whether for the Imperial forces, the Canadian regulars, or the militia. The authorities here greatly appreciate the assistance which the Imperial Government is rendering them in the selection of their new weapon. - Our Correspondent.

THE CAPTURE OF GUNGUINHANA.

CAPE TOWN, JAN. 20. The Portuguese transport Africa, which captured the city of Gungunhana on board, is in Table Bay. - Our Correspondent.

LISBON, JAN. 20.

The newspapers published to-day furnished some corrections of the news given previously. Instead of 300 men the number who returned here by the steamer Zaire yesterday is now given as nearly 800, of whom 717 belonged to the African expedition. Sixteen men died on the voyage. Of those who arrived 103 were seriously invalided, and most of the remainder were in a most pitiful and emaciated state. It is understood that the British will take proper medical appliances and nourishment as to the climate of Africa. The poor fellows, who exhibited signs of intense suffering, met with a hearty reception from the populace, who noisily gave vent to their feelings of joy and patriotism all night long in the brilliantly illuminated streets. The same such demonstrations might be turned to more practical purposes if the Portuguese displayed more industry and occasionally gave their earnings to some beneficial object instead of squandering their money in holidays. There have already been six holidays this month, and many more are to follow. Between this and the end of February, to-day there is a thanksgiving service at Selem Cathedral and a gala performance at the Opera, to which members of the foreign diplomatic corps have been invited.

THE ASHANTI EXPEDITION.

KUMASSI, JAN. 21. The white troops will leave here tomorrow on their return to the coast. King Premeh goes with them as a prisoner under an escort furnished by the West Yorkshire battalion. Rumours are prevalent that the Ashantis contemplate an attempt to kill or remove King Kwaku. A ship is being prepared for the erection of a fort. The Denkers levies are returning to their own country. - Reuter's Special Service.

AUSTRALASIA.

MELBOURNE, JAN. 20. A large meeting of Irishmen in Sydney, over which Cardinal Moran presided, has decided to form a rifle corps for the defence of Australia. Dr. Warren, amid great enthusiasm, declared that Mr. Redmond's statement that Ireland would take advantage of England's distress was a gross libel on Irishmen, who had no sympathy with that sentiment. The Irish were ever ready to shed their blood in defence of the country. At Auckland a large meeting has resolved to form a branch of the Navy League. A resolution of loyalty to the Throne and admiration of Lord Salisbury was carried with enthusiasm.





COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM January 21: By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport...

KENSINGTON PALACE January 21: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Lt-Col Sir Simon Bland at the Memorial Service for Vice-Admiral Sir Conolly Abel Smith...

Luncheons HM Government Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at Lancaster House...

Latest appointments Mr Derek Toole, Ambassador-designate to Thailand, to be additionally Ambassador (non-resident) to Laos...

Birthdays today Miss Mary Hayley Bell, 72; Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, 61; the Dowager Viscountess Colville of Culterham, 81...

Marriages Viscount Coke and Mrs S. de Chair The marriage took place on January 16, in Norfolk, between Viscount Coke and Mrs Sarah de Chair...

When Stone Age man discovered his dexterity A young scientist who has made hundreds of stone tools to understand what our ancestors did with them has raised intriguing questions about some of the established beliefs...

Science report Mr Toth concentrated on the oldest known stone tools, made approximately 1.5 million years ago, and he compared the ones he made with those at the excavation of Lake Turkana in northern Kenya...

Oxford University Rag Charity Ball The Oxford University Rag Charity Ball will be held at the Oxford Union on Saturday March 8. All profits will be donated to charity...



Captain John Eames (left), British Airways' senior pilot, and Mr Brian Trubshaw (centre), the former Concorde test pilot, celebrate the supersonic airliner's first 10 years of commercial flying with a huge birthday cake at festivities in London yesterday...

Top price for rainy Piccadilly

By Geraldine Norman A turn of the century view of Piccadilly to the rail by Herbert Menzies Marshall secured the top price in Sotheby's watercolour sale yesterday at £9,020 (estimate £3,500-£5,000)...

Successor to Bruno Heim named

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent The Vatican has appointed one of its most distinguished diplomats, Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, to be the Pope's official representative in London...

HM Government Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at Lancaster House...

HM Government Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at Lancaster House...

OBITUARY REAR-ADM G. A. M. WILSON British nuclear submarine programme

Rear-Admiral G. A. M. Wilson, CB, who died on January 11 at the age of 79, was Rear-Admiral Nuclear Propulsion and Deputy Engineering Chief (Nuclear Propulsion) from 1957 to 1959...

PROFESSOR EDWARD STAMP

Professor Edward Stamp, Director of the International Centre for Research in Accounting and Endowed Research Professor at Lancaster University, died in Toronto on January 10, at the age of 57...

MIKLOS KRASSO

Miklos Krasso, a revolutionary Hungarian emigrant who became an ideologue and cult figure of the New Left, died in London on January 10. He was 55...

MR PHILIP GARDNER

Philip Gardner, who died on January 15, was a leading exponent of the Norfolk school of watercolour painting. He was 63...

MR HAROLD SMITH

Mr Harold Smith, a former member of the board of Imperial Chemical Industries, died on January 12. He served the firm for over 38 years and was a former joint managing director of the Dyestuffs Division...

THE TIMES GUERNSEY CARDIGAN

SPECIALY selected for Times readers, this versatile Guernsey cardigan is both hardwearing and attractive. Made in 100 per cent pure new wool...



THE strength and quality of the wool ensure that the wearer is warm whilst looking stylish. The cardigan is made in Guernsey for Times readers and comes in a choice of oatmeal or grey...

Mr J. H. R. Dalrymple Hamilton and Miss P. M. D. Metcalfe The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the late Captain North Hamilton of Bargary, RN, and the late Mrs Dalrymple Hamilton...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. J. Griffin and Miss S. J. Yorke The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Mr G. Griffin and Mrs G. M. Griffin, of Rockbeare, Devon, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. Yorke, of St Leonard's, Seaford, East Sussex...

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FINANCE Bank Exec



FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Bank abandons pound and principles

There is a fine line to be drawn in policy between keeping the markets guessing and having them believe that you have abandoned your principles.

The Bank's action in holding down base rates was based on three premises. First, the response to temporary sterling weakness should not be an automatic raising of base rates.

As a policy, admittedly a high risk one, it was standing up reasonably well until early yesterday afternoon. Then, according to foreign exchange dealers, the Government pulled the props from underneath the pound.

Earlier the authorities had called for a round of bill offers in the money markets, making it clear that intervention rates would not change.

The March Brent oil price flipped of \$20 a barrel, girls staged a tiny rally and rates eased a fraction.

A news agency story may have been responsible for tilting the balance of power back towards the market.

There is a strong case for the Chancellor to break into his Budget deliberations and produce a firm statement of policy.

Tangle in Thatcher's bargain basement

The Government's privatisation programme has to be fairly flexible and subject to the unforeseen, but this year's timetable has begun to take on a firmer outline without being cut and dried.

Sir John Read, chairman of the Trustee Savings Bank Group, has finally admitted that the bank's ill-starred flotation is unlikely before the autumn.

While the JSB is not an asset sale (none of the moose goes to the Government) it is important for two reasons.

Swan yard sell-off completed

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Swan Hunter, the Tyneside warship yard which was formally privatized yesterday after a £5 million management buyout, immediately appealed to the Government to keep politics out of the warship market.

The company's new management team, led by Mr David Hardy, the deputy chairman of London Regional Transport, as chairman, said its main fear for the future was a distortion of decision-making by political considerations.

The company, which returned to profitability last year after large losses, operates what was the state-owned British Shipbuilders' biggest warship yard. Its £300 million order book includes vessels that are mostly due to be launched in the next three months and it badly needs to win a Ministry of Defence order for two auxiliary oiler replenishment ships.

£1 billion, is enough to disrupt other large flotations if badly timed. British Airways has been served with a complaint brought by a Los Angeles travel agent alleging violations of US anti-trust laws.

BA is probably right in believing that new court actions are opportunist and, on the basis of earlier settlements, the cost of losing would not be enormous.

Under the earlier schedule, Royal Ordnance Factories and British Airports Authority were to have been squeezed in between BA and British Gas.

The major players in the City have found their partners and are beginning to practise dancing in step. The opportunists on the fringes are busily opening share-shops and dignifying themselves with the catch-all hoarding of financial services.

Regional brokers find strength in numbers

The five regional brokers are forming a new company in which Capel and its investing colleague, Postel, will each have 20 per cent.

They have high hopes that other regional brokers will be tempted to join them but want their new venture to be seen as a positive move.

Between them these regional brokers also aim to provide a service that the research-orientated Capel already sees as a winner.

They will give a comprehensive research service into the small and medium companies which are currently ignored by other brokers but which are increasingly of interest to the cash-rich institutions.

They have high hopes that other regional brokers will be tempted to join them but want their new venture to be seen as a positive move.

Between them these regional brokers also aim to provide a service that the research-orientated Capel already sees as a winner.

Bloodstock agency slips

Bloodstock prices have not moved as the commission-based British Bloodstock Agency wished since its launch on the Unlisted Securities Market in September 1984.

The company puts much of the blame on adverse exchange rate movements and the seasonal nature of the business.

Major Christopher Philipson, concedes that prices for top racehorses have fallen. At the High Fliers sale at Newmarket last year, no animal realised more than 600,000 guineas.

Leigh-Pemberton presses for global securities watchdog

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, called yesterday for an international body to harmonize rules and exchange of information on the regulation of securities markets.

In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in London, he said that the growing internationalism of securities-dealing posed a problem for regulators. After October this year the City would contain financial conglomerates, some of which would be owned by foreign securities firms outside British jurisdiction.

These developments would bring different regulatory systems into direct contact, he said, and would require a greater exchange of information

and harmonization of legal systems governing securities.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton compared a new international securities body to the Basic Committee of bank supervisors chaired by Mr Peter Cooke, an executive director of the Bank of England.

But he added: "From a UK point of view, it is daunting to contemplate the extent to which US official bodies claim to exercise authority outside US territory."



Robin Leigh-Pemberton: US claims "daunting"

Instead of other countries facing such action by defensive laws, a compromise would be more productive. Otherwise, public support for yet another proposal that would give him more control over the budget process.

City cool on Japanese tin proposal

By Michael Prest Financial Correspondent

Japan, the biggest consumer of tin in the International Tin Council, yesterday threw its weight behind a negotiated settlement to the tin crisis and presented a plan for financing an orderly return to trading.

But brokers and bankers responded coolly. Mr Ralph Kestenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals and one of the authors of a £320 million rescue plan, and Mr Michael Metcalfe, a director of Holco, attacked the ITC and appealed to the British Government for help.

Their statement went on: "The only hope of averting the catastrophe which will hit the UK financial and commodity markets is for the United Kingdom Government, a full member of the ITC, to advance the necessary funds to allow the markets to function and obtain recompense from the other member governments of the ITC in due course."

There are three elements to the Japanese plan. The International Tin Agreement, which the ITC administers, is provisional but should be brought fully into force.

Tin consuming countries should charge a levy on their tin imports, to raise another £100 million. Finally, the company suggested by Mr Kestenbaum and Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, to take on the ITC's obligations, could be funded with only £100 million from the ITC.

But one banker close to the talks said: "It doesn't sound like a serious proposal. A gloomy note was added by the Tin Industry (Research and Development) Board of Malaysia, the world's biggest tin producer, which said a negotiated settlement of the crisis was unlikely. Letters, page 17

Fiat profit tops 1,000 bn lire for first time

From John Earle Rome

Fiat, Italy's largest private group, made a net profit for the first time of above 1,000 billion lire (£422 million) last year, the chairman, Signor Giovanni Agnelli, said in a letter to shareholders yesterday.

Signor Agnelli wrote: "Of particular importance is the fact that all sectors of the group contributed to these positive results. That is, residual areas of loss remaining at the end of 1984 were eliminated." It is active in motor vehicles, engineering, aerospace and telecommunications.

Turnover was up from £23,813 billion to £26,330 billion while consolidated net debts were down from £4,043 billion to £2,985 billion.

Reagan aims for big asset sales

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan's new 1987 budget, which will be submitted to the United States Congress on February 3, contains the most ambitious privatization programme proposed by a federal Government, according to White House and congressional officials.

It would result in a massive transfer of highway and transportation functions, student aid and health maintenance programmes, even some prison functions, to private companies, officials said.

At the same time, Mr Reagan plans to revive some old themes. In addition to proposing the outright sale of pet congressional projects such as the Bonneville Power Administration in the west and the navy's strategic petroleum reserves, he also seeks to elimi-

ate a large number of federal agencies and related functions. The Interstate Commerce Commission, the small business administration, parts of the Export-Import Bank, large agriculture and foreign aid programmes would be lost altogether.

A new theme is comprehensive revision of anti-trust laws to remove more barriers to big mergers and to provide special protection to US companies suffering from the effects of foreign imports.

Mr Reagan plans to use his televised State of the Union address next Tuesday to unveil his budget themes and to build

N Sea oil prices continue to slide

By Teresa Poole

North Sea oil prices rallied briefly yesterday but fell back sharply in nervous and thin trading.

In the morning, cargoes of Brent, the main North Sea crude, were trading as high as \$20.80 a barrel for delivery in March, up more than a dollar on opening prices. But by afternoon it was traded at \$19.35 compared with \$19.85 the previous day.

There was little activity in Brent for delivery in April but one cargo was priced at \$19.35, compared with a low of \$19.50 on Monday, when prices dropped below \$20 for the first time since 1979.

The market remained extremely volatile with early gains seen as only a short-term correction while traders covered short positions after 10 days of falling prices.

In New York, prices followed a similar pattern, with early rises soon wiped out. February Brent opened at \$20.80 and reached \$21.25, but by noon had slumped to \$19.75.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the price for March West Texas Intermediate fell \$1.50, the maximum allowed, to \$20.10 but later bounced back to \$20.55.

IN BRIEF £2.5bn unit trust sales

Unit trust sales of £2.5 billion net last year showed a 76 per cent increase on the previous year, according to the Unit Trust Association yesterday. Funds under management at the end of the year stood at a record £20.3 billion, an increase of 34 per cent.

These increases were not, however, matched by the number of additional unit trusts accounts opened during the year, which totalled 355,000, up 5.9 per cent.

BOTB chief

Sir James Cleminson, president of the Confederation of British Industry and chairman of Reckitt and Colman, has been appointed chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board from July. Sir Richard Butler, who retires next month as president of the National Farmers' Union, became a director of National Westminster Bank from March 1.

Leisure payout

First Leisure Corporation lifted profits from £6.75 million to £10.1 million before tax in the year to October 31. Turnover was up from £41.4 million to £47.5 million and the final dividend is raised from 4.5p to 5p.

Tempus, page 21

US bank fined

The Bank of America has agreed to pay \$4.73 million (£3.3 million) for failing to report large cash transactions as required by law. This is the largest civil penalty imposed on a financial institution for violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

Merrill offer

Merrill Lynch & Co. is issuing \$200 million (£142 million) of 9 per cent three-year Eurobonds at 100 3/4 to yield 8.85 per cent. The noncallable offering, due February 6, 1989, will rank as senior debt.

Brussels sale

Slough Estates has sold a 70,000 sq ft office project in Brussels to Pensioel, a Belgian pension fund. The project, pre-leased to the European Parliament, is due for completion in mid-1987.

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MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Lists various market indices and prices.







STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares make a spirited rally as loan rates are pegged

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Interest rate jitters eased yesterday allowing shares a spirited rally. At one time the FT 30 share index was down 9.1 points but it closed 2.6 points higher at 1,108.7.

The Bank of England's signal that at least for the time being interest rates could remain unchanged and sterling would take the strain on the foreign exchange market was largely responsible for the recovery.

But the pound's recent weakness has already encouraged selective American share buying and anticipation that a further decline could attract even more transatlantic support, sent some London investors chasing the likely US targets.

So Beecham Group, Grand Metropolitan and Imperial Chemical Industries made progress. Galxo Group was up 22p at 1,560p. The price was helped by a presentation of the group's management was due to give in New York. The US Glaxo holding through ADRs, has declined steadily over the past

Expect action soon at NSS Newsagents, the 550-shop chain which has remained aloof so far from the shop takeover spree. The shares are near their 1985-86 peak at 124p and have been attracting some quiet, but seemingly well-informed, attention lately.

year and the Glaxo presentation could lead to a renewal of interest.

Shares were also helped by the expiry today of the London traded options January series.

With sterling off its lowest level, helped by a slight firming of crude oil prices, oils rallied. Yield considerations and though that falls had been overcome also gave the sector more buoyancy than it had enjoyed of late.

Racal Electronics held at 178p. Interim figures, due shortly will be disappointing. CASE Group tumbled 15p to 134p as profit expectations were downgraded. Technical Components slipped. Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Co. achieved a 10p gain on its 330p striking price.

Government stocks had a mixed session, eventually closing with gains of up to 1/2%. Pegler-Hattersley, the indus-

trial valves to desalination group, shaded 2p to 342p following an investment conference.

Hampson Industries rose 17p to 27 1/2p after a 27 per cent profits rise and Matthew Clark & Sons, the Martell cognac brandy group, responded 10p to 420p on higher profits.

Stores were helped by the success of investment analysts in the United States, buyers are appearing for the stock in London. At least three brokers have been acquiring the shares which however, shaded 1p to 108p yesterday.

Meanwhile, a deal over Hawley's 43 per cent shareholding in Cope Allman, the amusement machine group, is near.

causing of interest rate fears but takeover expectations made Sears, the Selfridges group, the sector's outstanding performer. Rumours swirled of bids from either Dee Corporation or BAT Industries. The shares rose 5 1/2p to 112 1/2p in active trading with Laing & Crutchenbank, Dee's broker, and Cazenove & Co, Sear's broker, thought to be actively bidding for stock.

On the takeover front Distillers Co eased 3p to 560p; Guinness slipped 3p to 283p and Argill Group lost 5p to 350p.

The Monopolies Commission reference left General Electric Co unchanged at 166p and Plessey, with another analysts visit scheduled, up 6p to 172p.

Gnest Keen & Nettlefolds were still being bought, the share price rising steadily to 278p, up 7p on the day.

Investors like the look of the recently finalized joint venture with British Steel, the management buy out of the fasteners business and present prospects for currency gains. At the present price, GKN is on a potential p/e of 11.1 for 1986 and just 8.2 for 1987, according to forecasts by Quiller Goodison, the broker.

Bowater Industries looked

less than happy, the shares losing 11p to 270p. The market trend was no help to the paper and packaging group, and there is also disappointment in the City about bid prospects.

With Hanson Trust taking a 10 per cent stake in Bowate, investors had hoped to see a full bid launched, but Hanson now has enough to handle with its support ahead of next month's results was cited as the cause.

Estel Group, the racing and share price services to advertising and public relations company, dropped 8p to 340p. Profit-taking did the damage.

The shares have been strong in recent weeks on expectations that Dr Ashraf Marwan, who has a holding of the shares, is still buying in preparation for a takeover bid by a third party.

Shares in Pilkington, the glass maker, were on the move company directors met institutional investors in the City. The share price dipped to 326p in early trade, but later in the day - as the seminar got underway - it rallied and finally closed at 335p, for a net gain of 4p.

Metal Box lost 14p to 569p. Apart from suggestions that the group is on the acquisition trail, there was also some profit-taking being done in the stock.

Macarthy's Pharmaceutical, where a takeover bid is on the table, saw a 3p gain to 271p. Interim results have risen 18

per cent to £2.5 million, and the half year dividend has been raised from 2.2p to 3.5p.

Profit-taking took 6p off the shares of Kennedy Brookes, down to 230p. The restaurant and hotel group is rumoured to be the object of bid intentions by Vaux Group; Trust House Forte and First Leisure, though Vaux has denied the suggestion.

Wadkin, the maker of wood-working machinery, jumped to 170p as one source as the company announced that it has received a bid approach. But excitement soon calmed and the shares ended the day at 156p, to show a 14p gain. The shares had made progress in recent days, reflecting market expectations of imminent takeover action.

Fill Group gained 5p to 143p on a 32 per cent profits increase and Cromite rose 12p to 66p (after touching 71p) on takeover gossip.

Rensters, the news agency and financial information group rose 5p to 383p. US buying

Volume was a healthy 18,580 contracts on the London Traded Options market yesterday, ahead of today's expiry of the January equity series.

Activity was fairly widespread, though a handful of options registered volume well above the 1,000 mark. BP totted

up 1,625, BT 1,748 - a touch down on Monday's remarkable 4,311 total - Beechams 1,263 and Imperial 1,625 contracts traded.

The stock exchange profits. The stock exchange profits. The stock exchange profits.

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● MACARTHYS PHARMACEUTICALS: For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 138,784 (143,893) while the pretax profit was 2,498 (2,115). Earnings per share were 11.2p (8.6p). An interim dividend of 3.5p (2.2p) is being paid on April 7.

● AGS RESOURCES: For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 54,145 (46,440), while the pretax profit was 4,008 (3,494). Earnings per share were 4.95p (4.12p). An interim dividend of 2.75p (2.5p) is being paid on April 1.

● MATTHEW CLARK & SONS: For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 44,127 (41,199), while pretax profit was 2,896 (2,553). Earnings per share were 11.3p (10p). An interim dividend of 3p (2.5p) is being paid on April 7.

● LPA INDUSTRIES: For the year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 6,019 (4,794), while the pretax profit was 996 (779). Earnings per share were 11.84p (7.75p). A final dividend of 11.4p (11.4p) is being paid, making a total of 3p (2.45p). The board is proposing a one-for-five scrip issue and predicts a maintained total dividend of 3p on the enlarged capital.

● A. & P. APPLIED: For the year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 3,612.5 (2,731.9), while the pretax profit was 1,017.5 (705.1). Earnings per share were 18.66p (10.79p). A final dividend of 4p (0.45p) is being paid on March 7, making a total of 6p (0.45p).

● SCOTTISH ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN TEXTILES: For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 8,523 (10,037), while the pretax profit was 672 (839). Earnings per share were 8.52p (10.44p). An interim dividend of 1.6p (1.4p) is being paid on March 3.

● HAMPSHIRE INDUSTRIES: For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 12,286 (9,974), while the pretax profit was 613 (483). Earnings per share were 1.49p (1.12p). An interim dividend of 0.345p (0.3p) is being paid on March 10.

● L. D. & S. RIVLIN: For the half-year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 592 (775), while the pretax profit was 35 (42 loss). Earnings per share were 0.05p (loss 1.06p).

● FII: For the year to Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 81,856 (62,883), while the pretax profit was 4,023 (3,044). Earnings per share were 12.7p (9.07p). A final dividend of 3.26p (2.72p) is being paid, making a total of 4.62p (3.9p).

● A. & J. GELFER: For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 3,080 (2,755), while the pretax profit was 466 (408). Earnings per share were 4.78p (3.5p). An interim dividend of 2p (1.5p) is being paid on April 14.

● DALGETY: The company has agreed to purchase the Nabisco Group's Romix Foods business for £3 million cash, Romix, with a £10 million turnover, makes a range of home-bake mixes.

● ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS: Sir Alan Dalton, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the operating divisions are in good shape, with sound order books. "Without in any way diminishing the tasks and challenges that lie ahead, prospects are good" he concludes.

TEMPUS

Monopolies delay will be crucial for GEC bid

Now that GEC's bid for Plessey is with the Monopolies Commission the last thing that anyone should assume is that the fortunes of the two companies can be put on the back burner for six months. The stock market already takes the view that GEC will be allowed to proceed and the ensuing months will therefore be crucial in determining the outcome.

Plessey will be pulling out all the stops to talk up its share price and put an extra gloss on the figures which it will produce between now and the announcement on whether the takeover can proceed. Already the Plessey story that the disappointments of the last two years were an aberration caused by System X is being whispered round the City. Better things are on the way, it is being told.

But are they? The company has certainly used creative accounting to smooth its profits, but without underlying trading strength the long-term prosperity of the business must have serious question marks hanging over it.

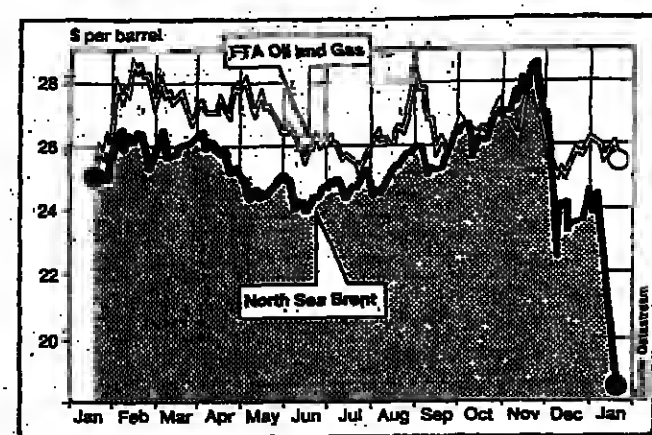
For GEC's part, it, too, must look to the longer term for a big upturn in its fortunes. Analysts are expecting profits of around the £700 million mark for this year - not in themselves exciting, but a glance at GEC's order book suggests a big improvement the following year.

GEC is thus standing on a prospective earnings multiple for 1986-87 of just nine, which is cheap enough for the shares to be bought even without securing the takeover. Plessey is committed to talking up its share price, so not only must its story be viewed with a degree of scepticism but there is also risk that the promises may prove hollow.

Oil sector

And everywhere the oil price went for the sector followed too. At least it did until recently. As the chart shows, the little lamb of the oil sector has stoutly resisted following the steep oil price decline of late.

Such resistance in fact is not evidence that the market is unworried by falling prices. The current anomaly is explained more by technical factors and a reappraisal by the market of the importance of oil prices as an investment indicator.



Experience dictates that, at these yield levels, the major company share prices should not fall further and their role as defensive stocks should become more pronounced. As long as the market is convinced that dividends will not fall the share price will remain relatively stable and the slump in oil prices can be pushed to one side.

Clearly, if the oil price were to keep on falling then some reassessment of the position would be called for. Neither BP nor Shell is impervious to such an impact but they do have the flexibility and size to protect themselves more effectively than the independents.

For the time being, the Shell and BP dividends appear protected and the share price will find support. That support, therefore, helps the sector index to keep afloat but it disguises the dramatic impact that the falling oil price has had on most of the independents.

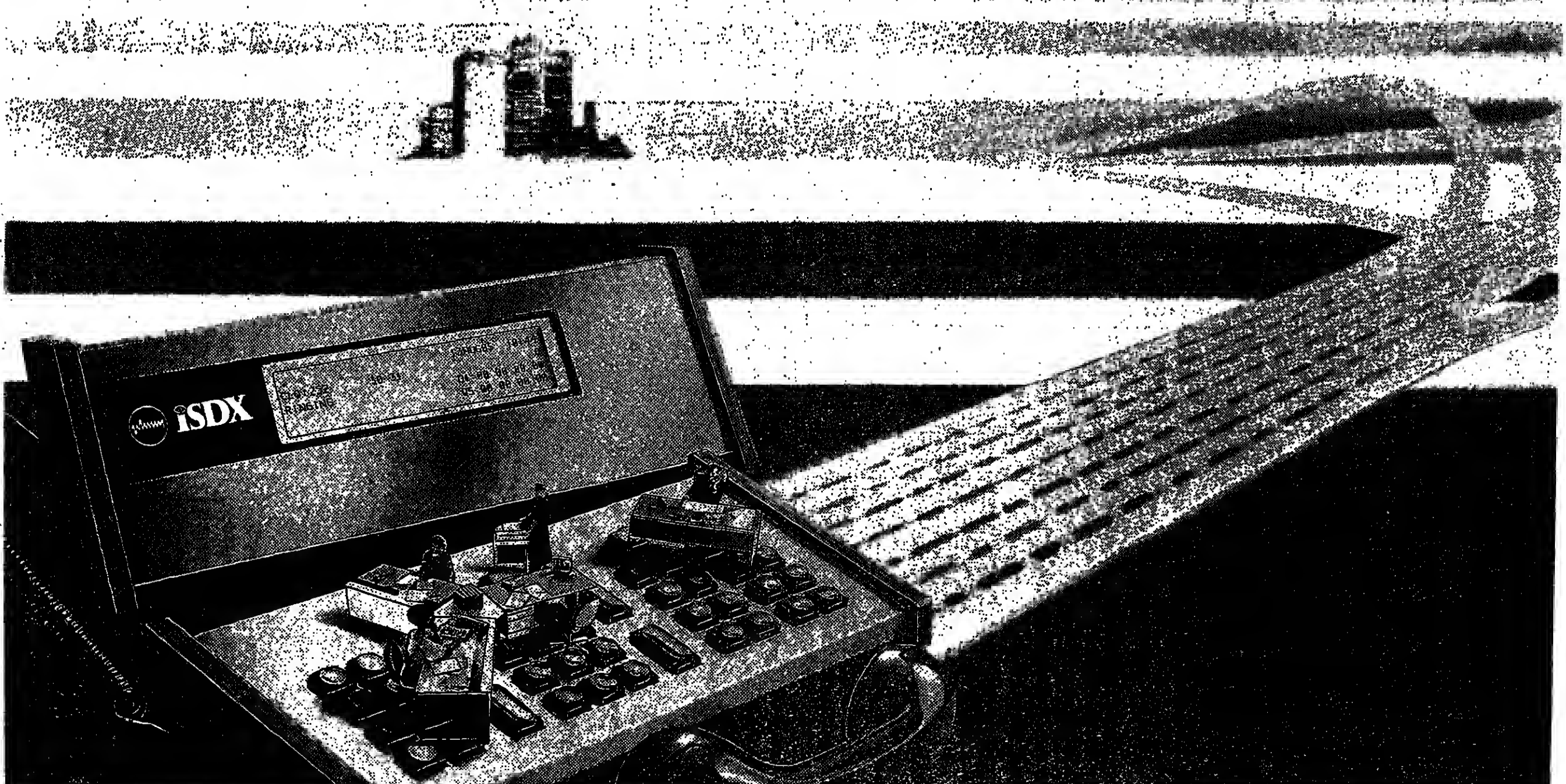
Their prices have been steadily declining with any rallies being taken as selling opportunities while investors try to reduce the level of book losses which many are now carrying on the oil independents. The main problem is that the oil price still remains its strength as a selling indicator, when it is falling, but it no longer has credence as a buying indicator - when prices are rising.

Lord Delfont keeps his shareholders happy by catering for the masses. First Leisure Corporation, where he is chairman and chief executive, provides a popular mix of entertainment in Snooker halls and discotheques and on seaside piers. The formula has proved successful: profits have more than doubled in two years.

Yesterday the company announced profits of £10.1 million for the year to October 31, up from £6.75 million. The results were helped by the inclusion of higher profits on the sale of properties and investments and, just as important, the exclusion of costs relating to the closure of the theatre restaurant business which were charged below the line.

The closure is a timely reminder, if any where needed, that the leisure industry is volatile. To date Lord Delfont has tended to show an uncanny sense of timing. By, for example, opening new snooker halls just as the sport's popularity has taken off. He continues to open snooker halls and bowling alleys, and is adding to the chain of restaurants and pubs.

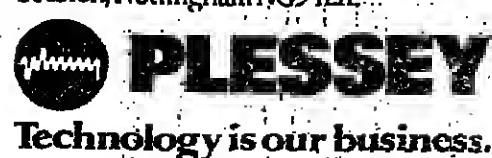
Lord Delfont seems as alert as ever, being 76 years, and he is understood to be planning a large acquisition before he retires. With gearing at negligible levels and plenty of credit available, the company is well placed to make a purchase. But Lord Delfont says there is nothing imminent.



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supremacy is that it has evolved from the Plessey ISDX, Britain's number one large digital PABX. Connecting you to the future in communications is a Plessey habit - in public exchanges, packet switching, data networks, fibre optic systems - as well as exchanges for the private office. In fact, Plessey has the name for being the total communications company. It's a name worth knowing if you want to leap ahead. Plessey Telecommunications & Office Systems Limited, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1LA.



هناك امن النظم



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Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, P/E. Lists various companies like Marks & Spencer, Goldring (A), Fine Art Dev, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

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INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend, Yield, P/E.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Late rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 13. Dealings End, Jan 24. Contango Day, Jan 27. Settlement Day, Feb 3. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E. Lists companies like Brown Shipley, Marks & Spencer, etc.

BUILDING AND ROADS table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

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DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

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ELECTRICALS table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

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OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

PROPERTY table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

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SHIPPING table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Gross Div, Yld, P/E.

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ARTHRITIS  
AND RHEUMATISM/1

# Flying the flag to beat the pain barrier

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research is holding this week its first public education week, less than a month before its 50th birthday. It is celebrating its golden jubilee with radio phone-ins, involving rheumatologists and other physicians who specialize in treating rheumatic disorders.

In half a century, rheumatic diseases have lost their image of being the Cinderella of medicine and now attract the scientific attention of Nobel prizewinners and top-line researchers.

Yet despite the prevalence of rheumatic disease — osteoarthritis, for example, has been found in many vertebrates apart from man and including fish, whales and dolphins — until the 1960s in Britain it was not generally recognized as a medical speciality. Most cases were dealt with by general practitioners.

Dr F. Dudley Hart, a rheumatologist who is a member of the council, was in at the beginning when it was formed and held its inaugural meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, with Lord Horder as chairman and the Duke of Gloucester as president.

From the beginning as the Empire Rheumatism Council, its aim was to encourage and finance research into rheumatic disorders, to educate the medical profession and the public and to make more people aware

of the size of the problem and its effect on both the health of individuals and on the economy, through working days lost due to illness. Its first year's income, recalled by Dr Dudley Hart, was £2,000.

Now it spends more than £5 million on research and has committed itself to projects involving £23 million over the next three years. More than 1,000 fund-raising branches will be aiming to draw in more than that to support nearly 200 areas of research at centres throughout the UK.

The branches, which range from groups of 10 or 20 to one or two women working on their own, are supported by one of the organizers in each of the council's 30 regions. Most of them are women.

"They're indomitable," says Jim Norton, the council's general secretary. "I go out with them on flag days and there are some who just shouldn't be out. Half the people in our branches are arthritics who want to see something done about it."

Flag days, which, with house-to-house collections, are still effective fund-raising events, raised about £250,000 in 1983-84.

As Britain's major source of research funding into such diseases, the council emphasizes that 85 per cent of its money goes directly to scientific investigation and education.

The money goes directly to projects and is not caught up in paying academic tenured ap-

pointments. "If we do decide to allow a professorship or similar lectureship, it's one capital sum and that's it," Mr Norton says. "All the project work that goes on is based on how good they are and how they can convince the council's assessors next time that they are worthy of support. They stand or fall by their performance."

"Although it's hard, it means that we can do a lot more with our money," he says.

The research findings are disseminated to doctors in a number of ways: symposiums, postgraduate education and in written reports. "We push out the clinical paper to every general practitioner in the country," Mr Norton says.

Every five years, a volume of collected reports is issued, free, to medical schools for trainee doctors to use and study. Annually, such education for doctors only costs the council about £500,000 a year and the evidence is that patients are reaping the benefits.

Possibly the only research centre in the world that specializes wholly in rheumatic disease is the Maudsley and Terence Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology in London. Housing many research scientists of various disciplines, such as virologists, immunologists, molecular biologists, the main thrust of the institute's research is aimed at the two major diseases, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

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There's hope: Dr Barbara Ansell with two-year-old Laura Fear

## One child in a thousand may have the disease

About 12,000 children in the UK suffer from rheumatic juvenile arthritis, 10 or 11 will have systemic arthritis, in which there is fever, skin rash and widespread aching or swelling in their joints; half of those children will have a very serious illness.

Doctors still do not know what causes juvenile chronic arthritis. There is no evidence that catching cold, getting wet feet, sleeping in a damp bed or eating the wrong foods lead to the illness. No viral cause has been identified. As rheumatic diseases are common among all ages — another member of the child's family has usually had some form of rheumatism — there may be a genetic link but there is no clear evidence that children have inherited their illness.

Nevertheless, there remains the one child in a thousand who has some form of juvenile arthritis in the early years of its life. Chronic, or long-lasting juvenile arthritis is often known in Britain as Still's disease, after the child specialist, George Frederic Still.

The most common age for one of the types of arthritis to occur in children is between two and four, although it can happen at any time. According to Dr Barbara Ansell, a world authority on the condition, it is very distressing to the child's parents.

"If you have a handicapped child from birth", she says, "there are terrible traumas for the parents in the first few weeks of life, then they gradually adapt to it. But when a perfectly healthy baby gets knocked down by even one swollen joint — let alone a serious illness — it is terrible for the parents".

Yet 80 per cent of the children affected go on to lead perfectly normal adult lives.

The most common form of arthritis in children, affecting 65 to 70 per cent of all children with the disease, will involve only one or two joints. At the other end of the scale, out of every 100 children with

juvenile arthritis, 10 or 11 will have systemic arthritis, in which there is fever, skin rash and widespread aching or swelling in their joints; half of those children will have a very serious illness.

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### Treatment may be needed for years

It was Dr Ansell's work, started when she was a junior doctor in 1959, that revealed that it is not all the same disease. Unique in that she is following up children that she first treated in 1959, her research has traced the natural history of the disease in those patients. From such studies, she says, "it was learned that it was not just one disease, not only different clinically but immunologically." Now she is just completing the 25-year follow-up.

She adds: "We've watched the disease split out in different ways. As new techniques became available for sorting out arthritis, so we've applied them to the juvenile group."

For all forms of the disease, the aim of treatment is to suppress its active phase and prevent deformities. Treatment may need to continue for months or even years but most children can live at home and attend a normal school, relying on drug therapy to control many of the symptoms. One or two children may need an occasional day in hospital, for

example for steroid injections to reduce inflammation in the affected joint.

Splints are used on the growing child to prevent deformities, rest splints may be worn at night on wrists, knees or ankles, while work splints protect joints that are in use, such as during school lessons when the child's neck is bent over or the wrist used in writing. There may be bouts of eye inflammation, "but with appropriate treatment today the majority of these can be controlled," Dr Ansell says.

It is the 5 per cent with the serious illness that account for much of the crippling, the failure to grow and the long-term problems of juvenile arthritis, she says. But only in a minority is corrective surgery necessary.

In general, children with active disease are discouraged from competitive sport but cycling and swimming are considered excellent exercise. Says Dr Ansell: "Physiotherapy is one of the mainstays of maintaining joint position and function during the period the disease is active." A daily exercise programme tailored to individual needs prevents muscles wasting and parents are encouraged to play a leading role in their child's therapy.

Not all children need the specialist treatment that Dr Ansell offers from her base at the CRC division of rheumatology at Northwick Park Hospital, in north-west London, or at the specialist centres throughout the country, of which she visits a number once a year.

Paediatricians and rheumatologists are the targets of her attempts to increase awareness of the disease.

"It is not from the medical point of view we need more; it's the other services that need to be improved. But one of the important things is that if parents are worried and unhappy, very few paediatricians would deny them a second opinion."

There is, she says, much work that needs to be done in support for parents. "It's important to get over the idea that chronic disease in the family, or a disease that could potentially become chronic, can be very distressing to the family.

"These diseases aren't lived in hospital; they're lived at home — and that goes for all rheumatic diseases, as far as I'm concerned," says Dr Ansell.



# 50 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

1986 is ARC's 50th Anniversary and marks 50 years of achievement. The considerable advances that have been made through its research in knowing and understanding the mechanisms of the arthritic and rheumatic diseases have resulted in significantly improved treatments for sufferers, and have also meant that, for more people than ever before in our country today, the diseases themselves are actually being kept at bay.

ARC is determined to go on with its research until its ultimate goal of seeing the diseases eliminated altogether is attained. Using as a start-point its 50th Anniversary, it is pledged to an all-out effort to raise and grant the £23 million it knows will be needed over the next few years to maintain the levels of research that will bring the goal nearer.

You can help by sending ARC a 50th Anniversary donation, or contributing by Deed of Covenant. And also by remembering ARC in your Will.

Please make your cheque or postal order payable to the Arthritis & Rheumatism Council for Research.

The General Secretary, The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, Dept T/50, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR.

To: The General Secretary, The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, Dept T/50, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR.

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FOCUS

# Genes that can provide the vital clue

The traditional picture of ankylosing spondylitis is of a stiff, deformed spine, most often, although not exclusively, seen in men between 18 and 30. It is a misleading picture, according to Derek Brewerton, Professor of Rheumatology at Westminster Hospital, London. He believes that there may be between 50,000 and a quarter of a million people with the disease and that 90 per cent of them have not been diagnosed. The bent-back victims "make up only a tiny proportion of all those with spondylitis", he says. "There are many more people with only minor forms of the same thing."

Diagnosis is, however, complicated by the fact that genetically, spondylitis relates to a number of other disorders, such as psoriasis, a skin disease. Inflammatory bowel disease overlaps genetically with spondylitis, which itself overlaps with other rheumatic diseases of both the spine and the limbs. Thirty per cent of patients with spondylitis also have iritis, an inflammatory ailment of the eye.



Professor Derek Brewerton, who helped find the genetic markers, in consultation at Westminster Hospital

## Behaved like two diseases

For many people with only minor symptoms, it is probably enough that their doctor is aware of the diagnosis. Professor Brewerton says, so that if there is a problem in later life, the correct treatment can be given.

Others may be helped merely by knowing that their aches and pains are not imaginary and by advice on maintaining good posture and having exercise or by relieving pain and stiffness with tablets to reduce the inflammation.

But even for people with more severe symptoms, usually aged between 18 and 25, in the majority of cases the disease subsides by the time they are 30 and they cease to have any more trouble.

It was a discovery by Professor Brewerton, together with work in Los Angeles, that changed the course of much genetic research not only into spondylitis but of a whole range of conditions as different as multiple sclerosis, diabetes and schizophrenia.

Although it had been long suspected that there was a hereditary factor in ankylosing spondylitis and related rheumatic disorders, it was not until 1973 that research by Professor Brewerton and his team showed a very close association between

those diseases and people with a certain tissue type. Medical science had already established that there are inherited antigens on the surfaces of all cells throughout the body. Those antigens occur in millions of combinations and help determine individual characteristics; rather like blood groups they can be identified from birth and remain throughout an individual's life.

Professor Brewerton found that people with the particular tissue type, the genetic marker, were 300 times more likely to develop spondylitis than the rest of the population. A third of the patients with ankylosing spondylitis had iritis, yet they did not seem to be complications of the one disease. They behaved more like two diseases in one individual.

"What occurred to me," he says, "was that instead of being a complication, it might be that the genes were related and that the genes laid down that you might have both conditions, if you were unlucky."

Collaboration with Moorfields Eye Hospital in London revealed that patients with iritis had the same genetic marker, even when they did not have rheumatic disease. Further work revealed that people with non-rheumatoid arthritis in

worked like a team - if you had one, you needed less of the other. They had to search for their patients; in London, a city of nearly eight million people, they found 40 and reckoned there were only about 70 altogether. It was that association between genes and the specific disease that fired the scientists into new lines of genetic investigation.

"I thought then, and it seems to be borne out, that all the inflammatory rheumatic diseases will have genetic markers, when we know enough, and that they also determine the so-called complications that we get," Professor Brewerton says.

For patients, the practical effect is that it gives one half of the jigsaw puzzle. "It's all very well to say that we are programmed from birth and are susceptible, the second half of the equation is: what are we susceptible to? The real advantage of the discovery is that it will lead on to the next one, the crucial one."

The likelihood of someone developing ankylosing spondylitis is about one in a thousand, rising to 300 in a thousand of those with the genetic marker. Yet a screening test would be unhelpful as less than 2 per cent of those with the marker will develop spondylitis.

With iritis, there is circumstantial evidence that it may be due to a virus. Professor Brewerton bemoans the lack of sufficient funds for research. "Scientifically, the problem over acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Aids, is somewhat similar. Yet research funding for Aids is an emotional reaction to a handful of people so far. Here, we are talking about possibly pain and disability in millions or billions of people in the world with all kinds of arthritis."

"In America, they've got so much money to spend on Aids, they don't know what to do with it all. But with this, there just isn't any money being put into it. It seems to me that it's crazy that we don't take these chronic diseases so seriously."

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council can be contacted at 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR. Telephone: 405 8572

## Why women suffer worse

Thousands of people suffer pain and distress through one of the two major rheumatic diseases, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Although they both affect the area of joints, the two complaints are unrelated. The former appears to be an aberration of the cell biology of joint tissues and is also known as arthrosis or degenerative joint disease. Rheumatoid arthritis, however, appears to be an autoimmune disease in which the body attacks its own cells for some reason. About 1.5 million people in Britain suffer from it, 70 per cent of them female, although many cases are mild.

Osteoarthritis is common in older people, leading to research views that age plays a part in the disease. However age alone does not cause it and it does sometimes start in young adults. In some forms, heredity plays a part; particularly the variety that affects the hands of middle-aged women.

With such an ailment, one or more joints may be affected, although it does not "spread" to all joints. With it, the cartilage, the "gristle cushion" at the ends of adjoining bones, becomes thinner and its surface is roughened.

Extra fluid may be produced by the body to protect the joint, causing it to swell slightly. In some cases, the cartilage cushion may be severely damaged allowing the bone ends to rub against each other, giving the victim pain and ultimately causing bone damage.

In severely painful cases, and usually after other forms of treatment have been tried, such as physiotherapy, hydrotherapy or tablets to reduce the pain and inflammation, surgery may be offered. The best-known are the hip-joint replacement operations which are still the most successful of the joint replacement techniques. Such surgery has, according to one researcher, probably done more to help older people with severe osteoarthritis than any other single remedy.

Rheumatoid arthritis causes inflammation of the joint lining and often runs throughout the body affecting many joints, sometimes leading to severe damage to the area. It can also cause sufferers to feel tired, lose



Mrs Shirley Poulton with her two-year-old, Rebecca, who has suffered from arthritis since birth, at the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council this month

weight or develop anaemia. Although it may start at any age, it often is active for the first time in young and middle-aged adults and runs a course of flare-up and remission. Studies at the ARC Epidemiology Research Unit at Manchester University have shown that the pattern of the disease varied throughout the country. According to Dr Elizabeth Badley, deputy director of the unit, people in Scotland, Wales, the north and north-west of England and in the Yorkshire and Humberside areas suffer worst with almost every type of rheumatic disease, "although the same is true of most ailments". By contrast, East Anglia and the south-east of England escape lightest. Sadly, the medical and pharmaceutical services are broadly provided in those areas in inverse proportion to the numbers of sufferers.

## What a frozen shoulder really means

Only one person in 50 is likely to go through life without one of the rheumatic complaints which now affect about 20 million people in the United Kingdom. Each year, a million and a half people attend hospital out-patient departments for the first time with a problem of their joints, or the muscles and tissue surrounding them.

One in every five patients visiting their doctor is likely to have one of the two major problems, osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis. For many people, their type of complaint will be only a temporary condition but, overall, between six and eight million people remain significantly affected.

Arthritis and rheumatism are commonly used to describe the pain and stiffness in bones, muscles and joints. Strictly speaking, arthritis is inflammation of the joint, while rheumatism is a general term covering inflammation and changes in the structure of

muscles, bones, cartilage or joint membranes. Collectively called rheumatic diseases, there are more than 200 such disorders, accounting for the loss of around 70 million working days each year.

Osteoarthritis, in which one or two joints in the knees, hands, hips or big toes sometimes become painfully deformed, or "knobbly", and rheumatoid arthritis, which may be more widespread in the body, are the two problems most popularly known as rheumatic diseases. The former often affects those over 50; the latter tends to start in women aged in their 30s or 40s.

Perhaps less well recognized by the public as rheumatic ailments are gout, back pain, sciatica, "frozen shoulder", fibrositis, tennis elbow and joint sprains as a result of sports injuries.

It is a fallacy that only old bones suffer rheumatic diseases. A stiff neck or "bad back"

occurs in all age groups. Ankylosing spondylitis, a form of spinal arthritis, mostly affects young men while lupus, another rheumatic disease, mainly affects young women. Even children, one in every thousand, may get one of the types of juvenile arthritis which often start between the age of one and four, although they can strike at any time during childhood.

There are also common misconceptions about what prevents, cures or aggravates rheumatic diseases, who has them and what the outcome is likely to be.

● Climatic effects: There is no evidence that different climates have any long-term effect on rheumatic diseases, which occur all over the world. The weather can affect symptoms temporarily: painful joints are often weather-sensitive.

● Special foods: There is no evidence that any special diet will prevent or cure arthritis, or that it is caused by any dietary factor.

● Wheelchair prospects: A third of rheumatoid arthritis victims recover without becoming seriously handicapped.

More than 99 per cent of sufferers will never need a wheelchair.

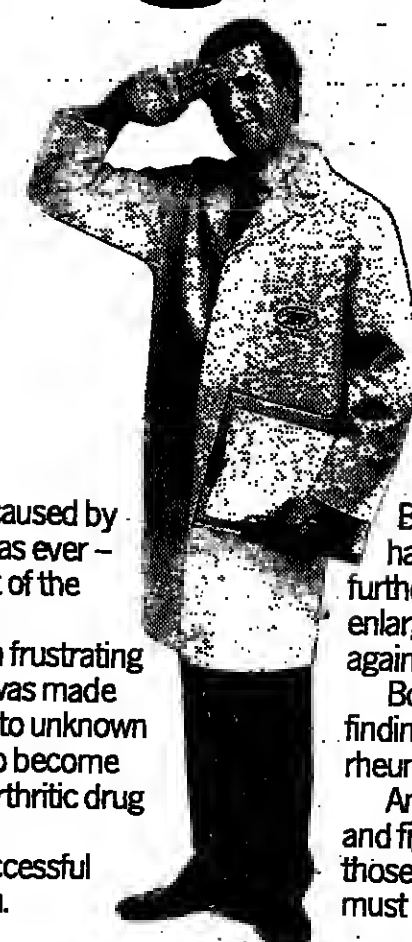
● Women versus men: Women are three times more likely to suffer from rheumatoid arthritis than men. When it comes to the arthritic disease lupus, women patients outnumber men by nine to one; but it is rare before puberty or after the menopause.

● Inheritance: There is a genetic link in rheumatic diseases but that does not mean that everyone in a family will automatically suffer from one or any of them.

● Wear and tear: Arthritic joints do not wear out from exercises prescribed by a qualified practitioner. In general, little and often is better than prolonged continuous exercise but joints should be kept moving.

● Cures and treatments: There is no absolute cure for rheumatic diseases. Some are self-limiting, others can be controlled. There are recognized forms of therapy that can alleviate all types of arthritis and rheumatism so that sufferers are able to lead full lives with relatively little pain or disability.

# In the war against pain, Boots is winning a battle.



The fight to alleviate the pain caused by rheumatoid arthritis is as intense as ever - and Boots remain at the forefront of the struggle, searching for a cure. In 1961, after lengthy and often frustrating research, a major breakthrough was made when Boots discovered the hitherto unknown compound, ibuprofen. This was to become the most widely prescribed anti-arthritic drug in the world. Ibuprofen has proved very successful in reducing pain and inflammation.

But success did not end there. Boots have gone on to research and produce a further anti-arthritic compound - thus enlarging the armoury of products ranged against this disease. Boots' research now concentrates on finding a compound which will halt the rheumatic disease process. And judging by the discipline and fighting spirit of all those involved, such a day must come.



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FOOTBALL: ENGLAND COULD LOSE THIRD OF SQUAD IF MILK CUP TIES ARE DRAWN

Arsenal look to their front gunners

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent
Excluding goalkeepers, Bobby Robson stands to lose more than a third of his England squad tonight. If the Milk Cup quarter-finals at Loftus Road and Villa Park are drawn he will be forced to find replacements for seven of the outfield representatives he has chosen for an international in Egypt next week.



Primed and at the ready: Quinn and Nicholas, a double-barrelled threat to Aston Villa

Scots' sixes Algerians seeking a bigger role

Algeria (Reuters) - Algeria have developed a taste for World Cup finals and they have no intention of playing simply a walk-on role in the Mexican fiesta. Undaunted by the prospect of meeting the triple world champions, Brazil, in their first round group, Algerian supporters are openly confident their team will reach the second round next June.

Millwall fans not welcome

Middlesbrough have banned Millwall supporters from their final second division home game of the season on April 26. The Middlesbrough chairman, Alf Duffield, said he was concerned about the threat of trouble after the terrace fighting which marred the Sunderland-Millwall match last Saturday.

Bakholt joins Rangers

Queen's Park Rangers signed the Danish under-21 international, Kurt Bakholt, yesterday for a undisclosed fee. Bakholt, aged 22, who has been playing for Vejle and is recommended to the Rangers by the Danish manager, Jim Smith, is the best young midfielder in his country.

Welsh policemen suspended by club

The South Wales Police have suspended two of their players who were sent off by Roger Quinlan, the international referee, during Saturday's game against Rotherham at Rotherham Park. Hew Williams, a prop, will be out for 10 weeks for stamping and Greg Prosser, a No 8, receives six weeks for punching.

Top riders' strike threat over money

The world's top grand prix motorcyclists are threatening strike action if their demands for a substantial increase in prize money for the 1986 series are ignored. They are demanding a 50 per cent increase in prize money plus a 50 per cent rise in expenses. Riders' representative, Mike Triabin, said yesterday: "None of this year's grand prix events will be contested until the demands are approached."

Toivonen in lead despite his collision

Monte Carlo (AFP) - The Monte Carlo rally leaders, Henri Toivonen of Finland, and Sergio Cresto, of Italy, were involved in a dramatic road accident early yesterday when their Lancia Delta S4 was in collision with an oncoming car close to the start of the second stage in the Alps region.

Squash rackets

Peugeot's world champions, Timo Salonen and Seppo Harjanne, of Finland, were lying third in the 1985-86 season. In the 1986-87 season, they are expected to be in the top two. The British Amateur Squash Association has been asked to accept players from the British Amateur Squash Association unless they agree to renounce the 13-a-side code.

Sports Council pressed to sanction RFU

A call for sanctions against the Rugby Football Union because of league has been made by Yorkshire and Humberside Council for Sport and Recreation. The council are now urging the full Sports Council to impose sanctions, probably financial, before the annual meeting of Rugby Union's international board in April.

Navratilova fights off illness to secure title

Marina Navratilova overcame a determined opponent, a sore throat and an upset stomach to win the women's classic tennis tournament at Worcester, Massachusetts, yesterday with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, of West Germany.

Beer money

John Smith's the Tadcaster brewery who sponsor Rugby Union merit tables A and B, have agreed to provide £45,000 backing for the Yorkshire County Cup competition over the next three seasons. John Smith's supported the tournament on a trial basis this season.

Admiral's Cup ratings put on an even keel

The Royal Ocean Racing Club have made some small but significant changes to some of the conditions for the Admiral's Cup series of 1987. The rating limits for eligible yachts will be the same as before, from 30 to 40ft IOR (International Offshore Rating) but the aggregate rating for the teams of three boats must be at least 95ft.

Helping hand

West Yorkshire's Metropolitan County Council is to allocate £150,000 to the British amateur Rugby League Association, to help it expand its membership and equip new headquarters in Huddersfield. John Fitzmaurice, chairman of the association, said the council's support was a "most welcome" gesture.

Rink suspends Hand for 28 days after fight

Paul Hand, the Murrayfield and Scotland international defence man, has been suspended by the management of the Edinburgh club for 28 days following a fight between Murrayfield's 13-a side over Whitley Warriors on Sunday. He is believed to be the first player in Britain to be suspended by his own club.

California call

Miss Irving has impressive credentials. Her mother Jenny, last year won the British Open veterans' title. This season the 20-year-old daughter trained in Brisbane with former world champions Heather MacKay and Geoff Hunt. An inventive, technically gifted athlete, she was regarded at Marlow as an almost automatic semi-final prospect for New Zealand's Susan Devoy, the world champion.

Leading the way

Sam Torrance, Ian Woosnam, Paul Way and Gordon Brand junior lead Britain's challengers for the £100,000 Cahay Pacific Hong Kong Open golf tournament, which starts on February 27.

FOR THE RECORD

UNITED STATES: National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) has announced that it will be holding a meeting in Washington on February 27. The meeting will be held at the Marriott Hotel. The NAB is the largest trade association in the United States.

Courtney is England's World Cup referee

George Courtney, a primary school headmaster from Spennyngton and an official noted for his 'calming effect on players whatever the situation' had been named as the English referee for the World Cup Finals. He is joined by Brian McGinlay of Scotland and Alan Snoddy of Northern Ireland on the list of 36 referees named by FIFA yesterday.

Top world players will take part in centenary games

The International Rugby Football Board have invited 23 of the world's leading players, six of them from South Africa, to take part in the two matches at Cardiff and Twickenham in April to celebrate the centenary of the board. The players are drawn exclusively from the overseas board and will play against the British Lions and the Overseas Unions in Cardiff on April 16 and the Rest of Five Nations XV and the Rest of Twickenham on April 19.

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CRICKET

Cook's part with bat and ball spoils fortunes of Sri Lanka

Colombo (Agency) - Nick Cook played a considerable part with both bat and ball yesterday to put England B in command at the close of the second day of the first four-day international against Sri Lanka.

He scored a dogged 39, sharing a partnership of 86 for the ninth wicket with Steven Rhodes, enabling England B to reach a first-innings total of 363, and then turned in a devastating five-over spell which brought him three wickets for two runs.

Sri Lanka recovered through Samarasekera and Gurusinghe to reach 122 for four by the close of the 24th hour, with Cook having taken four for 27 from 17 overs.

England B had themselves recovered in the morning session. Tremlett played handsomely and with Rhodes extended the overnight score of 243 for seven to 277 before he popped a catch to the keeper and was out for 21.

Cook then came in and mixed determined defence with strokes of aggression, while Rhodes moved to a three-hour fifty. Rhodes passed his previous highest score of 58 and finished with 78 not out.

Sri Lanka started on a rousing note with Vohra and Dharmika Ramalinga putting on 61 in 18 minutes before Ramalinga, who had five fours

since he took two wickets in two balls to end the Australian first innings. It was believed to be the first time two hat-tricks had been taken by different bowlers in the same match.

It was a quite extraordinary end to a bitterly fluctuating match. Almost forgotten was McKenzie's century. Rhodes carried his bat and Pollock's courage in batting with a fractured hand.

The odds if anything had been on an Australian victory at the start of the day. Van Zyl did not add to his overnight account, only Pollock and support McKenzie. He did so to the extent that they added 37 runs.

McKenzie farming the bowling and Pollock's courage in batting with a fractured hand. The odds if anything had been on an Australian victory at the start of the day.

At 24 the picture changed. Smith was caught behind and at 29 Shippard lost his off stump to Pollock. Rhodes carried his bat and Pollock's courage in batting with a fractured hand.

Rice brought himself on to his first ball. This too was a hat-trick.

India's timing all wrong Sydney (Reuters) - Kapil Dev, the Indian captain, issued severe criticism of his batsmen for failing to chase runs after Australia's 100-run victory in the World Series Cup match here yesterday.

"The run rate is important - we all know batsmen just didn't go for it," said Kapil Dev, who put Australia in. "They put the shutters up after I got out."

Gavaskar ended the Indian innings unbeaten on 92, his highest one-day score for his country. But he battled for 120 minutes and did not clear himself with the crowd of 31,000.

Australia had earlier hit their highest total in the World Series Cup - 292 for six. The innings was dominated by Geoff Marsh, who hit 125 from 145 balls.

Marsh put on 152 for the first wicket with Geoff Marsh, who hit 125 from 145 balls. Marsh put on 152 for the first wicket with Geoff Marsh, who hit 125 from 145 balls.

SKING



Didier Bouvet shows the style that captures special slaloms

Bouvet's French declaration

Parpaig, Switzerland (AFP) - Didier Bouvet, a 24-year-old customs officer, became the first Frenchman for 13 years to win a World Cup alpine skiing race when he triumphed in a special slalom.

Bouvet, bronze medalist at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics, finished with a combined time of 1:10.33.00 in winning his first World Cup race in a special slalom.

The 29-year-old Steemark, who won his 80th World Cup race in Italy last month, improved from sixth to finish second for the second time in a row. He won three hundreds of a second slower on the second run.

Paul Frommelt of Liechtenstein, who won his first race for five years in the Kitzbühel slalom in Austria last year, was third.

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TENNIS

British interest may be in who drops into second division

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent The BASF European Cup competition, the men's indoor team championship which begins at noon today and ends on Sunday, is the first indoor event of its rather ambiguous status to be contested at Queen's Club, West Kensington, since the staid old place was given a facelift.

The tournament is usually contested by players who are on the way up or the way down or are out of going anywhere in particular. Its challenge and this year's organizers have no idea how many of the 1986 seats will be needed. Tickets cost from 10 to 25.

Two years ago what used to be the King's Cup competition, so called because King Gustav V of Sweden donated the original trophy, was condensed into one week. The 1984 and 1985 events had only modest financial backing but the first division programme was well organized and attracted between 2,000 and 3,000 spectators to a sports stadium at Essen.

The standard set at Essen will be difficult to match but the support of BASF, a German-based chemical company, has enabled the European Tennis Association to offer prize-money for the first time. About £138,000 will be at stake in a two-day competition played in four divisions, each consisting of six teams.

The second division played at Helsinki, the third at Bordeaux and the fourth at Bergen. The most prominent players in each of the clubs will be just as good as the best in the world. Gunnarsson and Peter Lundgren (Sweden), Jacob Hlasek (Switzer-

land) and Libor Pimek (Czechoslovakia), who are ranked from 25th to 34th in the world. Britain's place in the first division is precarious and this week their task is particularly formidable. John Lloyd has not competed in this event since 1978. Colin Dowdeswell (his Davis Cup partner) hardly needs the experience and Stephen Shaw and Stuart Bale are injured.

Jeremy Bates and Nick Fulwood will probably have to assume all the responsibility in singles and doubles and this year's organizers have an appendix out in November, may be called on for a doubles and Jason Goodall has been attached to the side so that he can catch the flavour of senior international team competition.

This afternoon Switzerland played Italy, who earned promotion last year, and this evening Britain played Germany. The German No 1 will be Michael Westphal, who played in last month's Davis Cup final against Sweden and has again been preferred to the more highly ranked Hans-Joachim Schwabe, who is primarily a shale-court player. Czechoslovakia are the other team in Britain's group.

The contest of two singles and a doubles. The six teams in groups three on an all-play-all basis, the group winners advancing to Saturday afternoon's contest for the championship, which will be held in Sweden. Britain may have an active interest in the fact that the least successful team in each group will meet on Sunday morning to decide who goes down to the second division.

Annabel Croft and John Lloyd were the British rankings, which were announced yesterday. Miss Croft, aged 19, replaces Jo Durie at the top and is the youngest British No 1 since Christine Truman in 1958 and aged 21, retains first place and is the oldest player to lead the men's list since Mark Cox in 1977. The world rankings suggest that 10 nations have a better women's No 1 and 11 nations have a better No 2.

Moel and Chandon, the champion company, have made solid and liquid awards to Miss Croft and Lloyd and are also providing grants towards travelling expenses of players in three categories. Sara Gooner and Bates receive £1,000 each for making the biggest advance in the world rankings. Belinda Borneo and Stephen Bodiford receive £400 each for industry and effort at a lower level, and Anne Simplin and Nick Jones receive £330 each for "attitude, results and commitment" in the 18 and under age group.

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BOXING

Threat to Bruno's bout against Coetzee

By Srikumar Sen Boxing Correspondent Two leading black anti-apartheid organisations, the Black British Conference Against Apartheid and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, launched a campaign yesterday to stop Frank Bruno, a British world champion, from meeting the white South African, Coetzee, at Wembley on a world title eliminator at Wembley on March 4.

The group, claiming that the contest is in violation of the Gleneagles agreement, asked Mrs Thatcher to intervene and "abort" the contest by not granting Coetzee an entry permit. "We appeal to the Prime Minister to place the interests of British sport above the narrow interests of the apartheid lobby," the statement said.

Referring to Coetzee's statements against the Gleneagles agreement, Mrs Thatcher said she had written to Bruno apologizing for the open letter which had to be written because "we have made severe attempts to control you but we have failed".

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YACHTING

British challenge for world championship

From John Roberson, Perth The issue raised: Alan Bond's syndicate to threaten the Australian Yachting Federation yesterday that they were prepared to take out an injunction to prevent the release of certificates on Australia II, which won the 1983 America's Cup, and Australia II.

The Royal Perth Club have recently received a telex from the International Yacht Racing Union in London informing them of a 1983 resolution which allows yachts to keep their certificates confidential until they have sailed their first major regatta. This applies to all but four of the 16 entries.

In the long-awaited race between the two West Australian America's Cup defence syndicates, one backed by Kevin Parry and the other by Laurie Smith, the skipper of the British 1983 America's Cup challenger, and with British Olympic yachtsman, David Howick, as tactician.

The 200m is hardly unknown territory for Bennett. He is the English record holder, with 20.36 sec in winning the UK closed championship two seasons ago. But, since he insists that that time and others close to it have come with no serious training for the distance, Bennett hopes that he may finally find his sporting niche.

He does not quite have the range of Daley Thompson. But this Proteus of sorts began athletics at 16, seven years ago as a steeplechaser, and he has also had trials with Portsmouth FC.

Bennett's event should be one of the best competitions of the championship, since he meets Ade Mafe, the European junior champion at 200m. They have had three of the tightest possible matches over 200m at Gosford in the last two years, and Mafe leads 2-1. The three major draws of an event, which the organisers claim with some justification is the best championship in Europe, is all about winning medals.

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ATHLETICS

Bennett in switch to 200m

By Pat Butcher Todd Bennett announced his transition from 400 to 200 metres running yesterday, and his first "serious" excursion at the shorter distance will be at the Perth Athletics Club meeting at Gosford this weekend.

Bennett is coming to terms with the fact that he may never get significantly faster at 400m outdoors than he is indoors, which, ironically, he is the holder of the world's fastest time of 45.56 sec, set at the European championships in Athens last March.

The due in Bennett's height, at 5ft 7in, he can negotiate the tighter bends of indoor tracks much better than taller men, and, on past evidence, almost as fast as he can outdoors. As he admitted yesterday, the indoor season is really only a preparation for the summer's major races. Yet last year he hardly improved on that indoor time.

This year's aim is the Commonwealth Games and European championships. Bennett said: "Athletics is all about winning medals, and I stand a better chance of doing so at 200m than 400m".

The 200m is hardly unknown territory for Bennett. He is the English record holder, with 20.36 sec in winning the UK closed championship two seasons ago.

At 200m, Bennett's event should be one of the best competitions of the championship, since he meets Ade Mafe, the European junior champion at 200m.

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A test of Sibson's appetite

By Srikumar Sen After 14 months of inaction because of an operation on his left elbow Tony Sibson returns to the ring at Alexandra Pavilion, north London, today to prove that he still has what it takes to be a contender.

He takes on a veteran Mexican with the sonorous name of Juan Manuel Elizondo, who after 15 years of campaigning may not have been the most successful of fighters. He is the Mexican middleweight champion, which does not mean the same as a Mexican flyweight champion, but a Mexican fighter is a Mexican fighter. Having survived in the game for 15 years, let us see that he will be around long enough to enable us to gauge how much Sibson is still got.

The former British, European and Commonwealth champion, certainly has what it takes. The St. Francis gym the other day, laughing about how he kicked and tapped his way to a win over Mark Kaylor and growing angry at the thought of having to give up his name. He is a man who has done better than that he will be around long enough to enable us to gauge how much Sibson is still got.

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The lone ranger fights injustice

Doyle and partner up against the odds

Tony Doyle, the British lone ranger of continental indoor six-day racing, started the recent Bremen Six with a few scares to settle. One week earlier on the final night of the Cologne event, Doyle and his American partner, Dan Clark, came against the "combined" Doyle explained: "We were by far the strongest team on the track. The promoters were trying to get a home win and trying to influence the race and that's what happened." Team tactics prevailed against them and they finished third after racing around 1,000 miles at over 30 mph.

Such is the life of Doyle smoothly pedalling his bike around Europe's steeply banked wooden tracks, the shape of a squashed cereal bowl. Doyle has secured his fourth six-day win at Maastricht with Clark just before Christmas. With a lap distance at Maastricht of only 160 metres, riders take less than four seconds at full speed, down the short straight before rocketing round the 52 degree bankings to lap inside 10 seconds. Newcomers to the elite circle of six-day riders usually suffer a form of seasickness for the first couple of days.

What tempted the quiet spoken Doyle into this moonstruck way of life throughout this winter will have taken him to the tracks in Berlin, Dortmund, Munich, Paris, Ghent, Zurich, Maastricht, Cologne, Bremen, Stuttgart, Rotterdam and Copenhagen. Slightly money and a love for his favourite sport, cycling.

The two are very evident. His horse was working in a smart, detached horse beloved by young executives. On the drive a VV Golf and the "Comedy" Sierra (in this case his "possession").

Racing takes up 160 days a year and training nearly all of the remaining 265. Even his holidays - cross-country skiing - are programmed to clear his lungs of the fog from the cigar smoking spectators who pack the stadiums until the early hours of the morning.

Doyle is out racing, a typical day's training consists of 40 to 60 miles on his road bike, 15 minutes on the static rollers at home, a two hour session in the afternoon on the Herne Hill track - and then another 30 miles on the road the following day.

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Id players take part in try games

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YACHTING

British challenge for world championship

From John Roberson, Perth The issue raised: Alan Bond's syndicate to threaten the Australian Yachting Federation yesterday that they were prepared to take out an injunction to prevent the release of certificates on Australia II, which won the 1983 America's Cup, and Australia II.

The Royal Perth Club have recently received a telex from the International Yacht Racing Union in London informing them of a 1983 resolution which allows yachts to keep their certificates confidential until they have sailed their first major regatta. This applies to all but four of the 16 entries.

In the long-awaited race between the two West Australian America's Cup defence syndicates, one backed by Kevin Parry and the other by Laurie Smith, the skipper of the British 1983 America's Cup challenger, and with British Olympic yachtsman, David Howick, as tactician.

The 200m is hardly unknown territory for Bennett. He is the English record holder, with 20.36 sec in winning the UK closed championship two seasons ago. But, since he insists that that time and others close to it have come with no serious training for the distance, Bennett hopes that he may finally find his sporting niche.

He does not quite have the range of Daley Thompson. But this Proteus of sorts began athletics at 16, seven years ago as a steeplechaser, and he has also had trials with Portsmouth FC.

Bennett's event should be one of the best competitions of the championship, since he meets Ade Mafe, the European junior champion at 200m. They have had three of the tightest possible matches over 200m at Gosford in the last two years, and Mafe leads 2-1. The three major draws of an event, which the organisers claim with some justification is the best championship in Europe, is all about winning medals.

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We offer a starting salary up to £11,000 with annual salary review, 20 days' holiday, STL, sick pay and other benefits.

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I am looking for an exceptional Executive/Personal Assistant who is presentable, intelligent and has a lively mind. The ideal candidate will be hard-working and committed, careful and discreet and above all, should have a good sense of humour.

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Excellent salary and benefits. Hours 9.30-5.30.  
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To achieve the impossible you will need to have top professional secretarial skills including audio and shorthand.

You must be able to demonstrate high levels of initiative and communicative skills as you will be in constant touch with Senior Management and Directors both internal and external.

In return we offer you an exceptional opportunity to play a key role in the development of our young and dynamic Company together with a substantial salary and outstanding fringe benefits.

If you would like to attempt the impossible please telephone me for an application form or further information:

ALAN CLARKE  
Personnel & Training Manager  
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Lombard Continental House,  
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### ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS SECRETARY/TROUBLE SHOOTER

A well presented Secretary/Trouble Shooter required immediately to assist Chairman of our Appeal for an 18-month contract. Imperative secretarial skills, and good all round organisational skills.

The applicant would be based in Regent's Park. Four weeks' holiday. Free lunches. Salary: £9,000 - £10,000 negotiable.

Application form and job description from Birthright, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 or telephone 01-723 9296. Closing date for receipt of handwritten applications, 29th January 1986.

### OFFICE MANAGER/ DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

£9,500+ - NW1

Medium sized successful company based in NW1 urgently require a mature, self-motivated person to organise the general office. There are three aspects to this varied position:

1. Organisation of general office
  2. Personnel
  3. Secretarial work for Directors.
- Applicants must be well presented and well spoken, minimum typing speed 50 wpm. Shorthand not an advantage. Age 25-40. Contact Chris or Jenny on 408 0486, Beavers Ltd, Rec Cons.

### Judy Farquharson Limited

47 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 9HA.  
01-493 8824

**SYSTEMS DESIGNERS -** £12,000  
An experienced systems designer required to design and develop a new computer system for a large client. Must have 5 years' experience in this area. Salary £12,000 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to Judy Farquharson Limited, 47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA.

**INTERNATIONAL BULLION -** £20,000  
Dedicated young person needs a challenging role. We offer a varied and exciting career in the bullion industry. Salary £20,000 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to Judy Farquharson Limited, 47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA.

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**PA Executive** - £8,000  
**PA Executive** - £7,000  
**PA Executive** - £6,000  
**PA Executive** - £5,000  
**PA Executive** - £4,000  
**PA Executive** - £3,000  
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LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

### SENIOR SECRETARY IN ADMINISTRATION

An intelligent secretary is required to assist senior officers in the school's administration, whose work is very varied and covers a wide range of the school's business including research methods, legal affairs and press and media work.

Applicants should have good secretarial and organisational skills (including audio) and be able to work to minimum standards with the minimum of direction. Working at the busy centre of the school's administration this job also calls for tact, confidentiality and an unflappable personality.

Excellent conditions of service include generous holidays, season ticket loan and catering and social facilities. Salary on a scale from £7,756 to £8,758 (under review).

Interested applicants should send a full curriculum vitae to the Personnel Office, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE. Closing date, 10 February, 1986.

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01-439 6288

### STEP INTO SPRING

With a new seasonal position. Shorthand, typing and word processing skills required, together with excellent communication skills. Opportunity to join a fast moving, expanding organisation in the West End.

£8,000 - £9,000

### CONSULTANT & EXCELLENT

We are looking for an ex-consultant with a proven track record to join our expanding City based consultancy. Should have previous banking consultancy exp. so much the better but not essential. All enquiries should be sent to: Zarak Hay Associates Ltd, 4 Broad St, Fleet St, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 01-588 2242 (direct line).

Zarak Hay Associates Ltd

### LOOKING FOR A NEW IMAGE?

£10,000

The newly appointed special projects manager of this large public merchandising company based in NW1, is looking for a top calibre PA to assist him in organising a new project. Working at main board level he is responsible for launching the company in an entirely new direction. You will need plenty of initiative, and the maturity to handle the confidential aspects of the job, as well as excellent skills.

Speeds 100/60 + WP  
AGE: 25-35

ANGELA MORTIMER  
Recruitment Consultants

### SECRETARY £9,500 - WATFORD

Work for the Head of the Consumer Finance Dept. of this prestigious International Leasing Company. You will help with legal documents and correspondence, field all calls and organise his busy life. If you are well-presented with rusty SH, audio, good typing and have legal experience, please call.

434 4512  
Crone Corkill  
Recruitment Consultants

99 Regent St London W1

### ENTREPRENEUR £10,000

Successful businessman is looking for charming PA with ex. skills to help him with his many varied interests. He works from his home in SW1 and needs someone to totally organise his life.

28-36  
01-730 5148  
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#### Direcator of Housing WORD PROCESSING AND REPROGRAPHICS SUPERVISOR

£11,292-£11,965

Are you ready for your first step into management?

We are offering the ideal opportunity to develop your supervisory and organisational skills in this newly established senior post. Specifically, your duties will be to provide an effective reprographics and word processing service through the administration and supervision of the Directorate's centrally based typing pool resources.

So, if you are a first class audio/shorthand typist with administrative and supervisory experience in a typing service/reprographics environment and have the confidence and ability to undertake this challenging post, we would like to hear from you. Word processing training will be given if necessary. This post appears with the agreement of the London Housing Staff Commission.

Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post regardless of sex, race or origin, marital status, disemployment or age. Application forms and further details from Personnel Services, Town Hall, Patriot Square, London E2 9LW, or telephone our answering service on 01-881 0077. Please quote reference 908505/LT. Closing date for receipt of completed applications 17th February, 1986.

### Wheels of Fortune

£10,500 ++

Are you motivated by money? Our clients operate in the fast-moving world of international investment: two brothers, both dedicated to hard facts, shrewd judgement and business success. They now seek a PA/Secretary of similar drive and commitment. Working with them across all aspects, you will handle sensitive information, check exchange transactions, client liaison etc while looking after office admin and office accounts. The job offers excellent potential, with virtually limitless scope. Excellent numeracy, bookkeeping and computer experience are essential. Good typing/shorthand useful. Age 25+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd,  
35 Old Bond Street,  
London W1  
(Recruitment Consultants)

### AUDIO £9,000 neg. Personnel WC2

With 50% admin contact this busy position is seeking a candidate able to meet deadlines and priorities. Must essentially be able to keep things in order, be sensitive to staff problems and a typing speed of 60 wpm is a must. Excellent research and editing skills, subsidised recurrent and facilities.

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### SECRETARY £9,500 - WATFORD

Work for the Head of the Consumer Finance Dept. of this prestigious International Leasing Company. You will help with legal documents and correspondence, field all calls and organise his busy life. If you are well-presented with rusty SH, audio, good typing and have legal experience, please call.

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### SPORTS PROMOTION £9,000

Director in charge of publicity and new business in this highly successful sports promotion company is looking for a hard working 'right hand'.

There is plenty of involvement with the press, organisation of sporting events and varied administrative duties. A great opportunity for a young secretary with an eye to the future.

01-489 8566  
01-483 8583  
THE GROSVENOR

### Organise Conferences W1

We are looking for a responsible, well-educated, unflexible Secretary to look after our small team of busy research economists. The person appointed will be responsible for the organisation of our conferences and the distribution of our publications as well as normal secretarial duties. It is an independent economic research organisation studying the impact of government policy. Good typing is essential and the ability to use a word processor would be an advantage although we will provide training in Wordstar. Shorthand is not required but audio would be useful. Flexible working hours, 4 weeks holiday a year, salary £8,000 depending on age and experience + optional pension scheme. Please send full curriculum vitae and covering letter to Nikki Spencer:

THE INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES  
180-182 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD  
LONDON W1P 9LE  
Telephone 01-536 3784

### PA/SECRETARY

Chairman of International Consulting Engineers with head office in London requires Personal Assistant/Secretary. This is a responsible position requiring personality, tact, ability to deal with clients and, at times, to work under pressure. Candidates must be able to work on their own initiative, particularly during the Chairman's absence overseas and deal with non-technical correspondence. Applicants should be in the 25-40 age group and have a minimum of 5 years' experience as a secretary; they must have at least 2 A level passes and all the appropriate secretarial skills.

Pleasant office in Westminster. Working hours: 9.00-5.30 pm. Please apply by letter giving full details of training qualifications and experience to:

Administration Manager  
Peter Praetorius International Ltd  
Park House, 22 Great Smith Street,  
London SW1P 3BU

### Personal Assistant/Researcher

Economists consulting to major financial institutions throughout the world from W1 offices require an experienced, numerate, intelligent team member.

Assignments will be diversified with involvement in all aspects of the company's affairs. Specific responsibilities include office management and research support. Computer knowledge is not essential as full training will be given but an aptitude and experience of word processing would be an advantage.

You are over 25 (and probably less than 40), able to work under pressure, happy in a small team environment and eager to learn.

Generous salary negotiable. Write and tell us why you are the one.

Box No 2241 L The Times

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The candidates between ages 24-35 will be very well spoken, self confident and of particularly smart appearance. A significant advantage.

This post involves receiving all visitors to the Bank, internal telephone contacts and dealing with bookings for meeting/lunch rooms. Circa £9,000 + excellent profit share and mortgage subsidy.

430 1551/2653  
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To Chairman/Managing Director  
Circa £10,000

Required for International firm of Architects in WC2. Excellent secretarial skills and word processing experience essential. Responsible position requiring well educated candidate with tact and ability to work well under pressure. Contact with clients, confidential board matters and substantial PA responsibilities. Age approximately 28-35 years.

Please write enclosing CV to Box No. 1820 N The Times.

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### EDITORIAL 2nd JOBBER £8,500

Are you interested in working in Foreign Dept. of a world famous newspaper? Working in Current Affairs. You will be highly involved and spend a great deal of time on the telephone, contacting journalists etc. Ability to work under pressure is very important as is efficiency and accuracy. Excellent skills required (SH & typing) and WP experience is useful. Some experience in a similar environment would be a great advantage. Age 21+.

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01-828 1284

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The fast-moving MD of this prestigious Financial Services Co in W1 needs a highly capable PA to cope with his diverse work load, organise his busy diary and deal with correspondence. Financial exp. exp. Age 25+. Salary £10,000. Please call.

437 4187/89  
HOBSTONES

### SECRETARY+ £10,000+

Shorthand or audio is needed (although there is not a lot of correspondence) as secretary to the Group Financial Controller of a major and fast-expanding group of companies in W1. You will be involved in pensions, bonuses, statutory returns and reports. Age 30s.

City 377 8600  
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### COVENT GARDEN £9,000

Join this well established firm of research consultants as secretary to a newly appointed executive. Set-up new office systems and develop a full PA ROLE. You should be team spirited and looking for an informal atmosphere. 90/50 skills needed.

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1986 is already proving to be extremely busy and we urgently require experienced, top calibre secretaries and word processor operators to complement our excellent temporary team. We offer excellent rates and a variety of assignments in all areas of London.

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Minimum typing speed 70 wpm  
WC1 Area

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"The Boss" - our senior executive - is a delightful, meticulous gentleman with a sense of humour who seeks an exceptional and adaptable "right-hand" person to operate an IBM Displaywriter. (Will cross-train if necessary.)

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If you feel that the description applies to you we can offer you an interesting, busy job with the opportunity to broaden your experience.

We offer a competitive salary, excellent working conditions, BUPA and other benefits.

If you are interested, please telephone Miss E Pitts, 01-493 6080, for an appointment. Or apply in writing to Miss E Pitts, Kerr-McGee Oil UK Ltd, 75 Davies Street, London, W1Y 1FA.

### SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

required for the partnership secretary of a large architectural practice in Parkway, Camden Town.

Applicants, aged between 25 and 35, should have good secretarial skills, office administrative experience and the ability to handle a very varied programme of work.

Hours of work, 9.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing to: The Partnership Secretary, Sheppard Robson, 77 Parkway, Camden Town, London, NW1 7PU.

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Please write with full details to: Simon Blanton at Civil Law and Co, 25 Gilbert St, Grosvenor Square, London, W1Y 2EJ. (Telephone: 01-404 2222).

No agencies.

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130 Regent Street  
London W1R 9PE

### TRADING £12,000 + BONUS

A small team of traders in the City are looking for a P.A. Secretary. The job is 30% secretarial the rest is organising travel and meetings as well as administration of the group. Lots of client contact and telephone work. French useful. Sports 90/60, age 20-25.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS £9,000+

An excellent job for a hard working secretary who is starting off in public relations. You will be working with presentations, press releases, journalists and within a team of young friendly and hard working people. Lovely offices; Covent Garden and City. Sports 90/60, age 19-25.

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South Kensington

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- (1) The Secretary of the Museum
- (2) The Administration Officer

The posts call for energetic, self-starter and excellent personal and social personality, initiative and excellent skills, and previous experience as a personal secretary. Ability to handle material of a confidential nature is essential.

The successful candidates must be prepared to become involved in all aspects of the Department's work and will be expected to work on their own and to take responsibility. For post (1) experience in word processing, or a willingness to learn is desirable. Minimum qualifications: 3 GCE 'O' level passes, including English Language, Shorthand 100 wpm or audio skills; Typing 30 wpm.

Possibility of a starting salary above the minimum of the Scale of £8,287 per annum. Full details of the posts and the conditions of service are available on request. Applications should be sent to the Director of the Museum, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Tel: 01-293 8233 ext 441.

Apply in writing with curriculum vitae to: Mrs J. Farnworth, British Museum (Natural History) Recruitment Unit, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Tel: 01-293 8233 ext 441. The BMNH is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Of expanding International Management Consulting Firm seeking secretary to assist Group Chief Executive. Must be a capable, mature secretary to assist him & his PA.

Full secretarial skills, including a fast, flexible, well presented secretary with strong S/H & audio, + an eye for detail. Other essentials are: flexibility, imagination, team attitude, no snob, ability to work under (almost) constant pressure.

Most important is common sense, initiative, experience more important than years' results. It's a very busy & demanding role. In return we offer job satisfaction and good package SAAE. Please write with CV detailing what you have to offer to: Mrs Carol Wright, 7 Dorset Street, London W1Y 7LF.

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